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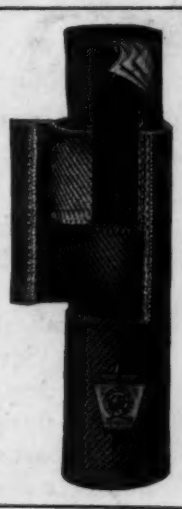

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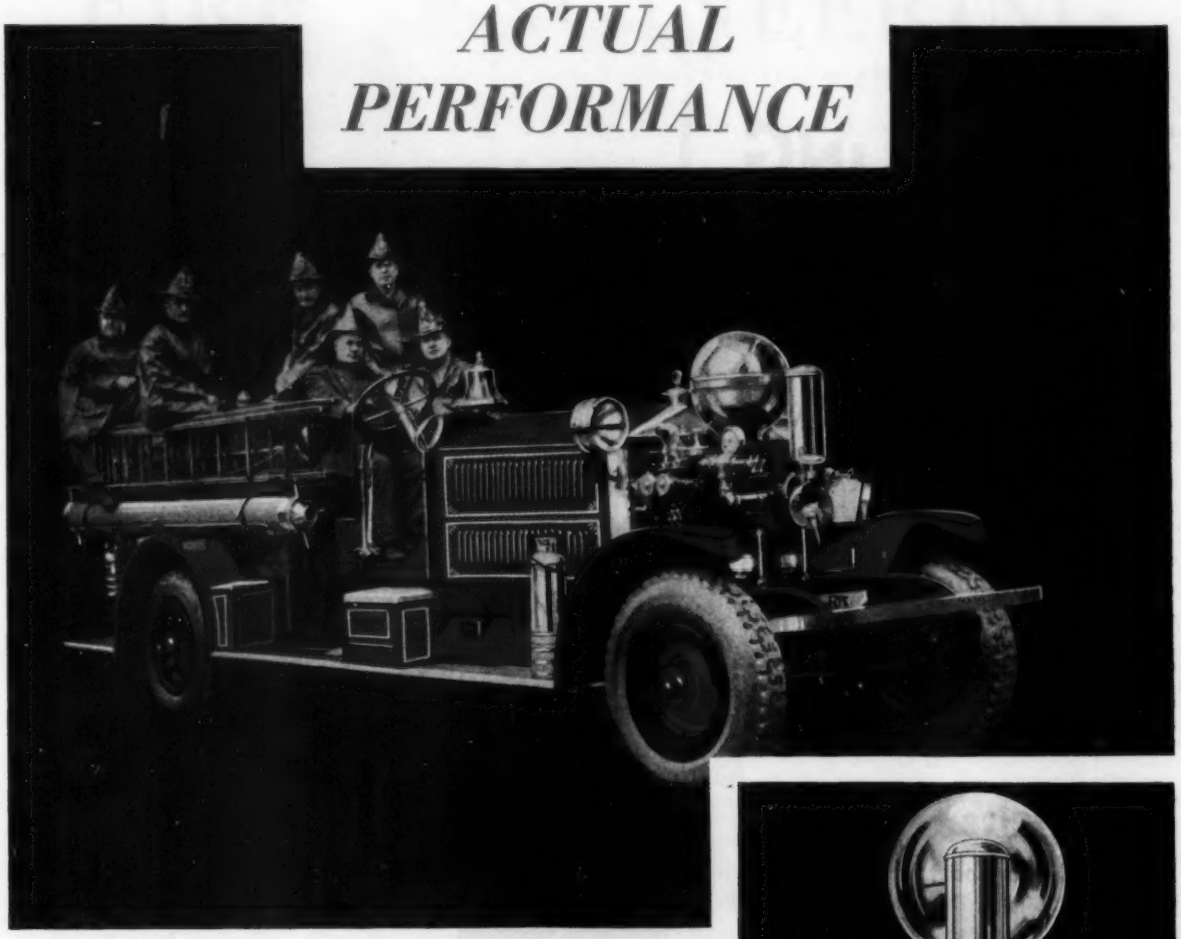

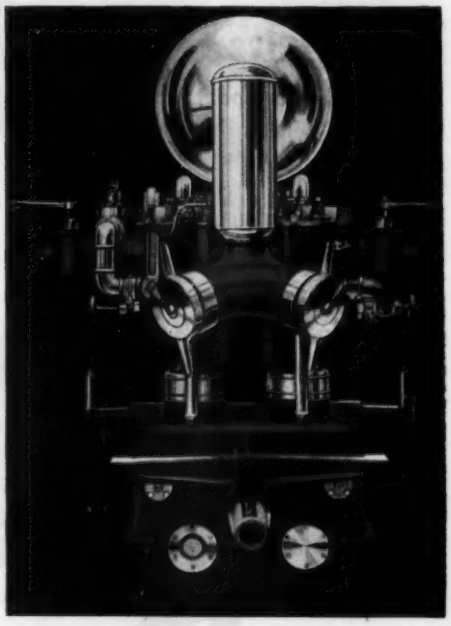

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The Journal of the Fire Protection Profession

VOLUME LXXXIII JULY 9, 1930 NUMBER 14

The Fireman's Liability When Answering An Alarm

The Responsibility of the Municipality for His Acts— The Law as to Personal Responsibility of the Fireman

By S. S. COMBS, City Attorney, Caspar, Wyoming

THE following paper sets forth very clearly the law on the subject of the fireman's liability for injury and death in the performance of his duties and the responsibility of the municipality for his acts:

The development of firefighting organizations and firefighting equipment has been slow indeed. The Wyoming laws enacted on this subject as late as 1909 provide for the purchase of "hooks," "ladders," "buckets" and other equipment of that ancient type. Nevertheless with the rate of speed at which our civilization is traveling it was inevitable that this old equipment should soon be replaced with modern and up-to-date equipment. In most of the progressive municipalities of the day the old hand-drawn reel and hose, the horse-drawn vehicle, buckets, hook and ladder are being replaced by powerful motor-driven vehicles, engine pumps and chemicals for the extinguishment of fires.

However, with this new and modern equipment, with our well trained, and well organized fire department, new and different sources of fire hazards and fires continue to arise. As one authority has spoken: "Today an airplane will strike a church steeple; tomorrow a balloon will be wrecked on a skyscraper; next day an automobile collision; from all of which fires will result, calling for the services of the fire department."

Hazards of Crowded Streets

Again, the streets of our modern cities are becoming more and more congested; they are crowded with motor vehicles, pedestrians, people of all walks of life, and traffic of every conceivable nature to such an extent that the element of danger to life and limb, not only to those persons on the streets, but the members of the Fire Department as well, is present at every run of the engines, and conditions bid fair for far more serious situation in the near future. One can hardly behold a great motor vehicle, thundering down a crowded street at a rapid rate of speed, without wondering by what miraculous power such a run is made without loss of life or property. It is, therefore, high time that the members of our fire departments throughout the country be advised of their rights and privileges under the law when making a run or answering a call.

Every good employee strives to protect the interests of his employer, whether he be an official or common laborer, and whether that employer be a private person, corporation, or body politic. A good fireman desires to know if his acts under certain circumstances will render the municipality which he serves liable in damages therefor. He likewise desires to know when and under what circumstances he will be held personally liable for his acts. The rights and privileges of the fireman when answering a call are many; the liabilities, either of himself or the municipality are few; it is therefore my wish to discuss this subject from the viewpoint of liability, rather than discuss the rights and privileges, for by so doing the same results will be obtained with a clearer understanding of the subject. I shall therefore discuss, first, the liability of the municipality for acts of its firemen, and, second, the liability of the fireman for his own acts.

The Functions of a Municipality

The functions of the municipality are of two kinds or classes, namely: The private or proprietary functions, and the governmental functions. The first class consists of those activities carried on by the municipality for its special corporate benefit or pecuniary gain, while the second class consists of those things done for the common good of all without the element of special corporate benefit, or pecuniary gain.

Mr. Eugene McQuillin in his work entitled: The Law of Municipal Corporations, Second Edition, volume 6, at page 758 says:

"A municipal corporation has a double function, first, the private, proprietary function, and second, the governmental function as the arm or agent of the State. The intermingling of these two functions has resulted in difficulty in determining the boundary line in separating the two. There is substantial unanimity, however, upon the proposition that the city, when exercising its private or corporate powers, is liable to respond in damages for the negligence of its officers, agents and employees. On the other hand, negligence in the performance of public duties by municipalities intrusted therewith is not imputable to the municipality. The neglect of a municipal corporation to perform, or its negligence in the performance of a public duty imposed on it by law, is a public wrong to be remedied by indictment, and cannot con-

"A municipality is not liable for the negligent acts of its officers, agents and employees in the performance of a governmental function. That in the discharge of discretionary duties firemen are not personally liable to others injured by their acts, unless they act corruptly or exceed their authority; in the discharge of ministerial duties, they are so liable, as a result of negligent performance of such duties."

stitute the basis of a civil action by an individual who has suffered particular damage by reason of such neglect. It has been said that the only exception to this rule is where the injury is the result of active wrongdoing chargeable to the municipal corporation."

Wrongdoing by the Municipality

An example of active wrongdoing by the municipality, to use the words of Mr. McQuillin, is where a municipality by artificial drains, diverted surface water from the course it would otherwise take and cast it in a body large enough to do substantial injury on land, where, but for such artifical drain, it would not go. In other words, where a municipality takes or damages private property for public use without just compensation, it is liable therefor under the Federal Constitution as well as the various State Constitutions, although engaged in a governmental function, but this is an exception to the general rule of liability. Mr. McQuillin further says:

"The underlying test is whether the act is for the common good of all without the element of special corporate benefit, or pecuniary profit. If it is there is no liability; if it is not there is liability."

Responsibility of the Municipality

The question now follows: Is a municipality engaged in the maintenance and operation of a fire department performing a private or corporate function whereby it is liable for the negligent acts of its officers, agents and employees therein, or is it engaged in a governmental function wherein it is not liable. Mr. McQuillin says:

"The power to organize and maintain a fire department for the prevention of damage by fire is a public or governmental function, and a municipality will not ordinarily be liable unless the statute so provides, for the wrongful or negligent acts or omissions of the department or its employees in the performance of their duties, either in the actual work of extinguishing fires or in otherwise discharging their functions as firemen, as in flushing the streets in front of an engine house, or in testing or practicing with fire apparatus and appliances, or, generally where persons on the public streets are injured by the negligence of firemen in driving vehicles employed in the fire department."

The rule is laid down in volume 43 Corpus Juris, Section 1746, at page 967 as follows:

"The power to organize and maintain a fire department for the prevention of damage by fire is a public or governmental function, and a municipality will not ordinarily be liable unless the statute so provides, for the wrongful or negligent acts or omissions of the department or its employees in the performance of their duties."

In Volume 19 Ruling Case Law, at page 1117, the rule is stated as follows:

"As the extinguishment of fires is a governmental function the firemen are not the servants or agents of the city or town by which they are employed, so as to render it civilly liable for their misconduct or negligence."

Mr. McQuillin further says (Vol. 6, Page 410):

"It was held at an early day that the members of the fire department of a municipality, when acting in the discharge of their duties, are not servants or agents in the employment of the city for whose conduct the city can be held liable, but they act rather as officers of the city charged with the performance of a certain public duty or service; and no action will lie against the city for their negligence or improper conduct while acting in the discharge of their official duties."

Mr. McQuillin here has reference to an opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts handed down in the case of Hafford vs. City of New Bedford, reported in volume 16 Gray (Mass.) at page 297, and he uses the phraseology of that opinion as his own herein.

Neighboring Communities Respond to Oil Fire

Thirty men of the Inter-Ocean Sales Corporation were lucky enough to flee to safety when fire swept through a dozen oil and gasoline tanks at the refinery in McCook, Ill. The burning oil was hurled over a large area and was visible for many miles. Firemen from a number of neighboring fire departments rushed to aid. The damage was estimated at $250,000.

Two Important Decisions

In recent years two opinions have been rendered which have brought about a lot of adverse criticism to the rule that the municipality is not liable for the negligent acts of its officers, agents and employees when engaged in the discharge of governmental functions. I now have reference to the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States rendered in the case of Workman vs. New York, reported in volume 179 U. S. 552, and the opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio handed down in the case of Fowler vs. Cleveland, reported in volume 126 Northeastern Reporter at page 72. The opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States rendered in the case of Workman vs. New York has been expressly limited to maritime law so that it no longer applies to municipalities of the States, and may hence be dismissed from further notice. However, the case of Fowler vs. Cleveland was a case wherein the driver of a fire truck returning from a fire ran into and killed one W. H. Fowler. In that case the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio held the city liable for the negligent acts of the driver of the fire truck. But at a later date, in the case of Aldrich vs. Youngstown, reported in 140 Northeastern Reporter at page 164 this same court said, and held:

"Counsel for plaintiff in error insist, however, that this court, in Fowler vs. Cleveland 100 Ohio St. 158, 9 A. L. R. 131, 126 N. E. 72, has announced a rule of liability that requires a reversal of the instant case. This court is of the opinion that there is no difference in principle between this and the Fowler case, and upon its reexamination has decided to overrule the latter. In doing so we are adhering to the principle announced in Wheeler vs. Cincinnati, 19 Ohio St. 19. . . ."

Non-Liability of Municipality Established

In 1920 a case was brought before the Supreme Court of the State of Wyoming entitled Ramirez vs. City of Cheyenne, wherein it was sought to recover damages for the death of a seven-year-old child brought about by the falling of a swing in one of the parks of that city; in that case the Wyoming Supreme Court, speaking through Justice Kimball, laid down the rule of non-liability of the municipality for the negligent acts of its officers, agents and servants when engaged in a governmental function. On this point the court said:

"The rule distinguishing between governmental and private powers for the purpose of determining the tort liability of municipal corporations may be of doubtful origin, and hard to justify on any principles of the law of Agency and torts. The grounds for the distinction have been seriously challenged in recent years. The Supreme Court of the United States refused to apply it in a case under maritime law. Workman vs. New York 179 U. S. 552 . . . Relying largely on what was said in the majority opinion in Workman vs. New York, the Supreme Court of Ohio in Fowler vs. Cleveland, 9 A. L. R. 131, held the city liable for an injury caused by the negligent operation of a fire truck, although it is held almost without dissent, and had been held in Ohio, that the maintenance of a fire department is a governmental matter. Since the decision of Fowler vs. Cleveland there has been in legal periodicals a flood of adverse criticism of the rule of immunity. . . . While these criticisms may have raised serious doubt both as to the wisdom and foundation of the rule, the doubt has not found much expression in judicial decision. . . . While we are not unmindful of the force of the criticism of this rule of immunity, we think the rule has become so well fixed as a part of the law of municipal corporations of this country that it is not to be disregarded by the courts until the legislature declares a different policy."

Fortunately we have an opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Wyoming, wherein the liability of the municipality for the negligent acts of its firemen, was brought directly to the attention of the court for consideration and adjudication. I now refer to the case of White vs. City of Casper, reported in volume 249 Pacific Rep. at page 562.

Outline of Facts in This Case

The facts as outlined in this opinion are: That between two and three o'clock in the afternoon of October 7, 1921, a fire alarm operated by the city of Casper sounded; that plaintiff was driving a Marmon automobile south on Center Street in the city of Casper and hearing the alarm he attempted to turn his automobile to the curb and park, but finding no parking space he parked his car parallel with the curb and as close to other cars there parked as possible. Shortly thereafter a fire truck of the city drove into and collided with plaintiff's automobile, demolishing it and in-

(Continued on page 591)

New England Chiefs Discuss Practical Fire Fighting

This and Other Important Topics Considered at Annual Convention at Rutland, Vt.—One Day Devoted to Exhibits and Demonstrations

By HARRY BELKNAP

CHIEF SELDEN R. ALLEN, of Brookline, Mass., was elected president of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs at the closing session of the Eighth Annual Convention, which was held in Rutland, Vt., on June 24, 25 and 26.

Other officers were chosen as follows: Chief Joseph Lawton, Newport, R. I., First Vice-President; Chief Charles E. Fortin, Lewiston, Me., Second Vice-President; Chief John W. O'Hearn, Watertown, Mass., Secretary-Treasurer; John J. Kennedy, Chief of Fire Protection, Bryant Electric Company, Bridgeport, Conn., Sergeant-at-Arms.

The following State Vice-Presidents were elected: Maine, Chief Grover Lovejoy, Waterville; Vermont, Chief John Heney, Barre; Massachusetts, Chief William C. Mahoney, Peabody; New Hampshire, Chief Arthur W. Spring, Laconia; Rhode Island, Chief John E. Rhodes, Saylesville; Connecticut, Chief Thomas F. Burns, Bridgeport.

President Allen reappointed George F. Cobb as Traffic Manager; Harry Belknap as Press Representative; and Herbert K. Pratt, George W. Austin, and P. Hildreth Parker, of the Box 52 Association, of Boston, as Registrars.

Boston was selected as the place of holding the 1931 convention, the invitation being extended by Chief Henry A. Fox, of the Boston Fire Department, who presented letters of invitation from Mayor James M. Curley and Fire Commissioner Edward F. McLaughlin, of Boston.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, of the Rutland fire department, worked hard to see that everyone had a good time at the convention, and his efforts in behalf of the visiting chiefs were much appreciated. The success of the convention was due largely to his efforts. Ex-Mayor James C. Dunn was chairman of the Local Committee. John C. Fox, Commissioner of Public Safety in Rutland, was unable to address the convention due to illness.

George F. Cobb was on hand to look after the hotel arrangements, several other houses besides the Hotel Berwick, the headquarters, being used to accommodate the chiefs.

Some of the chiefs came by train, many others over the road in their cars, while a delegation from points near Boston came in a large Mack bus.

The convention sessions were well attended and a fine program of entertainment was provided for the ladies.

Bus trips to "Kelly's" provided entertainment for many of the chiefs. Visits were also made to the marble quarries and other points of interest.

The official group photograph was taken on Thursday morning outside the armory by Photographer George H. Russell, of Lowell, who arranged the large group on the lawn.

Opening Session Morning of June 24

The opening session of the convention was held in the Meldon School Auditorium on Tuesday morning, June 24.

Chief Lawrence E. Reif, of New Haven, Conn., president of the association, called the meeting to order, after which there was the invocation by the Rev. Morgan Ashley, of Trinity Episcopal Church, of Rutland.

The orchestra then rendered "The Star Spangled Banner." After a special selection by the orchestra and introductory remarks by Chief Reif there was an address of welcome by Benjamin Williams, speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives. He welcomed the chiefs to "the green hills of Vermont," paid a tribute to the old time volunteer firemen, and declared that modern civilization depends upon the fire department for security.

Mayor Arthus W. Perkins, of Rutland, made a brief speech in which he said that Rutland felt honored in being host

Chief Selden R. Allen
President
Brookline, Mass.

Chief Joseph Lawton
First Vice-President
Newport, R. I.

Chief Charles E. Fortin
Second Vice-President
Lewiston, Me.

Chief John W. O'Hearn
Secretary-Treasurer
Watertown, Mass.

Some Well-Known Figures at the New England Chiefs' Convention

Left to right—Chief G. D. Lovejoy, Waterville, Me.; Chief O. T. Sanborn, Portland, Me.; Deputy Chief Thos. F. Dougherty, New York; Chief T. F. Burns, Bridgeport, Conn.; Chief Selden R. Allen, Brookline, Mass., newly elected president; Chief Lawrence T. Reif, New Haven, Conn.; retiring president; F. H. Burnham, Ex-Mayor J. C. Dunn and Chief A. K. Koltonski, of Rutland, convention hosts.

to the convention and would do everything possible to give the visitors a good time.

Chief William C. Mahoney, of Peabody, Mass., made the reply to the addresses of welcome in behalf of the association.

There were several selections by the Pythian Male Quartet of Rutland. The annual memorial service was then held with an address by the Rev. Morgan Ashley.

Roll of Deceased During Year

Chief John W. O'Hearn, of Watertown, Mass., secretary of the association, read the roll of the deceased which showed that the following members died during the past year:

Ex-Chief Frank H. Gunther, Dracut, Mass.
Ex-Chief Jesse Barrett, Peabody, Mass.
Chief John Q. Hunt, Weymouth, Mass.
Chief Wade U. Webster, Willimantic, Conn.
Chief Harry W. Tufts, North Attleboro, Mass.
George C. Neal, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal.
Chief Timothy J. Danahy, Hopkinton, Mass.
Chief George S. Pitt, Middletown, Conn.
Warren D. King, Supt. of Fire Alarms, Peabody, Mass.
Supt. William H. Guertin, Worcester, Mass., Protective Department.
Supt. Henry E. Thompson, Boston, Mass., Protective Department.
Chief Earl H. Pratt, Auburn, Me.
Chief John F. Donovan, Meriden, Conn.
John M. Hardy, Brookline, Mass.

Gold Watch Presented to Chief Koltonski

A feature of the opening session was the presentation of a gold watch to Chief Koltonski and a large bouquet of red roses to Mrs. Koltonski. Chief Selden R. Allen made the gifts in behalf of the association and Chief Arthur Montmeny, of Chicopee, Mass., was delegated to escort Mrs. Koltonski to the stand to receive the roses.

There were four past presidents of the association on the platform: Ex-Chief Daniel E. Johnson, of Bridgeport, Conn.; Chief William C. Shepard, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Chief John C. Moran, of Hartford, Conn.; and Chief Patrick J. Hurley, of Holyoke, Mass.

Check for $1,000 Sent to Nashua

The Tuesday afternoon session was held in Odd Fellows Hall. Chief John Heney, of Barre, Vt.; Chief Clarence R. Randlett, of Newton; and Chief Thomas Almond, of Central Falls, R. I., were named as the committee on courtesies.

Secretary O'Hearn read the reports of the various meetings held by the Board of Directors and told of the vote to send a donation of $1,000 to the sufferers in the Nashua, N. H., conflagration.

This gift was accompanied by the following letter to Chief James E. Smith, of the Nashua Fire eDpartment:

James E. Smith, Chief of Fire Department, Nashua, N.H.

Dear Jim—Enclosed find check for $1,000 from the New England Association of Fire Chiefs to assist in re-establishing those poor people of your city who lost their all in your recent fire.

It must be a source of great pleasure to you for us to be able to do this as you were one of the organizers and first officers of our association and always interested in its work.

Such men as yourself, banded together in the work that we are engaged in, never know when the call will come for assistance. I feel confident that it is the sentiment of our entire organization that we were glad to be of assistance to you, your good city, and its unfortunate people.

Kindly see that the check is presented by yourself or your commissioner and good luck to you.

Sincerely yours,
JOHN W. O'HEARN.
Secretary-Treasurer.

The following letter was received in acknowledgement:

City of Nashua, Mayor's Office.

Chief John W. O'Hearn, Secretary, N. E. Association of Fire Chiefs, Watertown, Mass.

Dear Chief O'Hearn—Chief James E. Smith turned over to us your most generous contribution of $1,000 for our relief fund and I want to assure you that this is greatly appreciated. Our local fire relief association contributed $5,000 to this fund, so you can judge from this the great necessity for large financial assistance in order to properly rehabilitate the large number of families burned out by the fire.

I want to thank you in behalf of our citizens for coming so generously to our assistance and you will realize that such a generous contribution will mean much to our unfortunate families.

Gratefully yours,
HARRY A. GREGG,
Chairman, Finance Committee, Nashua Relief Fund.

P. S.—I add my sincere thanks to you and the association.
WILLIAM F. SULLIVAN,
Mayor.

Telegrams of greeting were read from Chief Boulden, of Winnipeg, and from John J. Kennedy, chief of fire protection of the Bryant Electric Company.

Chief James M. Casey, of Cambridge, Mass., reported for the auditing committee which was composed of himself, Chief Koltonski, of Rutland, and Chief John S. Pachl, of the Annex Fire Department, New Haven, Conn.

(*Continued on page* 580)

With the New England Fire Chiefs at Rutland

Left to right—Chief Daniel B. Tierney, Arlington, Mass., Chairman Exhibit Committee; Geo. F. Cobb, Boston, Traffic Manager; a happy group of Chiefs watching the equipment demonstrations; Chief and Mrs. John S. Pachl, Annex New Haven, with son; Chief and Mrs. Victor H. Veit, Stamford, Conn.

Plenty of Water is Needed on the Alcohol Plant Fire

In this fire which destroyed a Philadelphia distillery, doing more than a million dollars damage, walls were blown out by the explosion of alcohol vapors released from containers which burst. The entire interior of the plant was wrecked before the department could bring the fire under control.

Alcohol Fires Present Unusual Problems

Unlike Fires in Other Inflammable Liquids, Alcohol Fires Cannot be Handled with Foam

WHILE the use of alcohol in beverages may have been reduced by the advent of prohibition, the use of alcohol in the industries has increased rapidly during the past decade. Its effectiveness as a solvent for many substances, particularly lacquers, has made it indispensable for industrial purposes.

Because of its extending use, alcohol is being encountered in larger numbers of fires each year.

The small alcohol fire is not a serious proposition, for water streams may be used to dilute the alcohol to such a point that it will not continue to burn, or carbon dioxide extinguishers used with good effect. Water accomplishes two things: It reduces the temperature of the liquid, and thus reduces the rate of evaporation of alcohol therefrom; it dilutes the liquid, as noted above, and thus makes the liquid less combustible. Incidentally, alcohol is miscible with water, that is, it is diluted by the addition of water. The same cannot be said of petroleum and other oils, which, being lighter than water, remain intact and keep to the top of the container, permitting the water to go to the bottom.

The vapors thrown off by alcohol are inflammable, and mixtures of alcohol vapor and air are explosive. Although alcohol is lighter than water, weighing only 80 per cent as much as water, the vapors from alcohol are heavier than air, but they diffuse readily in air. Gasoline and other fumes do not mix as readily with air, but remain in a stratified form.

This characteristic of mixing with air speeds up the possibility of explosion where alcohol is exposed to the air and heated so as to throw off vapors rapidly.

In the manufacture of most of the common alcohol, distillation processes are employed. The hazards around a distillery are not as severe as might commonly be anticipated, due to the fact that the solution from which alcohol is distilled off contains a large amount of water, and until a certain stage of the process is reached, it is not inflammable.

The alcohol itself represents a severe fire hazard and has proven a troublesome material when encountered at fires. The alcohol is usually stored in metal containers, but is sometimes shipped in metal tank cars rather than in smaller containers. In either case the presence of fire may mean the rupture of the container, the releasing of a great quantity of inflammable vapor, and subsequent explosion.

The chief difference between handling a fire in alcohol and one in petroleum oil by modern methods is the inability to extinguish alcohol fires with foam. The foam dissolves in the alcohol as rapidly as it is applied, possibly due to the fact that alcohol is miscible with water. Thus a smothering blanket cannot be placed over the alcohol and hence the foam loses its effect.

Covering containers filled with burning alcohol by use of waterproof covers, etc., or smothering the fire by the use of carbon dioxide gas will usually accomplish the task. For a small fire carbon tetrachloride may accomplish the desired result.

Where the fire department is called upon to operate at a large alcohol fire, care must be taken to protect the men against bursting containers. Bursting is caused

by heating the alcohol in the containers and increasing interior pressure thereby. Pressure may reach such a point as to burst the container and also throw burning alcohol quite a distance.

The use of water is probably the most effective means of handling alcohol fires of magnitude. But plenty of water must be employed both to wet down the burning materials, protect exposed structures, and to dilute any alcohol that may be present in open containers. Usually

Evidence of the Power of Alcohol Explosion

As shown in illustration above heavy brick walls were blown out by the explosion of alcohol vapor mixed with air at the Publicker Commercial Company's plant at Philadelphia.

when fire starts in a large establishment it spreads very rapidly and by the time the department arrives the entire place may be ablaze. In this case great range of streams is desirable, and for that reason streams of large caliber are employed.

The fumes thrown off by alcohol will accumulate in low places due to the fact that alcohol vapors are heavier than air. This point must be borne in mind when protecting the men as well as guarding against injuries through explosion of accumulated vapors.

Nashua Mayor Speaks at Box 52 Meeting

"I can not thank the people of New England enough for the aid they gave the stricken city of Nashua, following the recent disastrous fire," said Mayor William F. Sullivan of Nashua, N. H., at a meeting of the Box 52 Association held in Boston on June 18. He continued: "When the fire got beyond the control of the Nashua Fire Department, and things were looking pretty dark for us, from the north and south apparatus began to stream into the city to our assistance. When late that night I saw apparatus from Arlington, Belmont, Lowell and the other Massachusetts cities, I said to myself, 'The spirit of New England is indeed great.'"

That spirit, said Mayor Sullivan, continued after the fire had been overcome and financial assistance began to pour into the city. The Mayor outlined the relief work carried on by the Red Cross and ended his talk with expressions of high praise for the part played by the people of Massachusetts.

Fire Commissioner Chales H. Austin and Chief James E. Smith of Nashua also spoke briefly regarding the fire. Mr. Austin recalled the day, more than forty years ago, when Nashua sent Engine 1, of which he was engineer, to the great Thanksgiving Day fire, the alarm for which was sounded from old Box 52.

Superintendent Peter E. Walsh of the Boston Protective Department and formerly chief of the fire department, spoke on the passage of the fire prevention law by the legislature. Superintendent Walsh was a member of the Governor's Commission to make a report to the legislature.

Chief Selden R. Allen, Vice-President of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs spoke on the convention to be held in Rutland.

Police Commissioner Eugene C. Hultman was elected to honorary membership. Supt. Edward E. Williamson of the Maintenance Division, of the Boston Fire Department, an honorary member, was presented with insignia of the association.

P. Hildreth Parker, president of the association, presided. Among the guests were Chiefs Fox of Boston, Hill of Belmont, Casey of Cambridge, Harrigan of Dedham, and Ex-Chief Pratt of Central Falls, R. I.

Asst. Chief Harman of Scranton Dead

Charles W. Harman, assistant chief of the Scranton, Pa., fire department, died recently at his home as the result of an abdominal ailment. His end was expected for some time

Five months ago he confided to friends that he wasn't well, and upon the advice of his brother-in-law in Rochester, Minn., he visited the famous hospital there. He was removed from the hospital in a slightly improved condition. Several months ago he returned to Scranton apparently improved. His old condition returned and he never recovered from this relapse.

Chief Harman joined the department in 1902. When it was organized on a paid basis two years later, he was appointed lieutenant, May 6, 1910. On March 1, 1914, he was made captain. As soon as the batallion chief system was organized, Harman was named battalion chief.

On January 29, 1918, he was made second assistant chief. Six years later he was appointed first assistant chief.

Chief Harman was fifty years old and was married twice. He was a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association and the Six-County Firemen's Association.

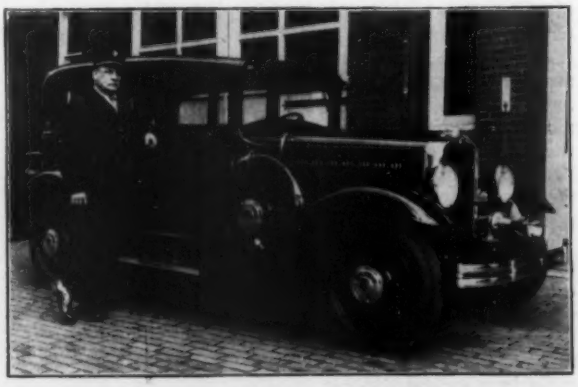
H. R. Early of Ahrens-Fox Dead

Henry R. Early, for many years connected with the Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company as their Chicago representative, died at 2 p.m., June 24. He was buried at Georgetown, Ky., his old home, on June 27. Mr. Early was associated in the fire field for over thirty-five years, and was well known to many chiefs and engineers.

New Madison, O., Buys Apparatus—New Madison, Ohio, has purchased Howe apparatus to be delivered in the middle of July.

Kunze with U. S. Rubber Co.—Arthur D. Kunze, for several years Secretary of the Rubber Manufacturers' Association, has been appointed as Assistant to Walter Gussenhoven, General Manager of the Mechanical Goods Department of the United States Rubber Company, New York City.

Mamaroneck, N. Y., to Buy Pumper—Mamaroneck, N. Y., has appropriated $14,500 for the purchase of a 1,000-gallon pumper. At present the department has a 75-foot Seagrave aerial ladder, an American-LaFrance city service truck, three Ahrens-Fox pumpers, a 600-gallon White pumper and an American-LaFrance chemical and hose wagon. The volunteer department has a personnel of 225 men.



Chief John Espey Completes Forty-Third Year

Chief John H. Espey of the Elmira, N. Y., fire department completed his forty-third year of continuous service in the Elmira Fire Department on June 27. Incidentally, the new 5-passenger Studebaker sedan was placed in service on the Chief's anniversary.

THE ROUND TABLE

For Practical Discussion of Current Fire Department and Fire Management Problems

SCARCELY had the last engine company returned to its quarters when aggressive, tattered newsboys were shouting:

"Extry, extry, all about the big fire. Paper, mister! Extry! Here y'are, late extry."

The newsboy was right. The edition contained all that was known about the big fire—the probable origin the names of all firemen injured, the names of the doctors who attended the victims, the owner of the building, and the monetary damage to the structure and contents.

It is a wonder that the average reader does not stop and reason how it is possible for a reporter who covers a wide variety of assignments from deaths to weddings and cornerstone ceremonies to fires, can become proficient in estimating at a glance the amount of damage done.

Estimating a fire loss requires a keen sense of values. Men known as insurance adjusters, who have been trained in this work, are employed by insurance companies to estimate the loss involved and to settle claims with the insured. Often chiefs rely upon the judgment of these men.

A fire chief does not work as fast as the reporter in arriving at the official fire loss. He interviews the owner, the insurance agent, and traces down every possible clue before the information is officially entered in his record.

HERE IS THE PROBLEM

What method do you employ for the estimation of fire damages?

Who makes the reports on fire damages?

Is there any check on the figure submitted, and just how is this done?

The problem treated in this issue is printed in the box on this page. In the box on the following page is the question that will be treated in the next issue. Should you have some comment that you would like to make on the next problem or if you have a question that you would like to see treated in this department, write to "Round Table Editor," FIRE ENGINEERING, 24 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y.

The Question

Very few chiefs, experienced as they are, trust their own judgment in estimating fire losses. Where the property is not insured, the figures are established after considerable study. Following a fire covered by insurance, the insurance adjuster's report is relied upon. The comments follow.

S. D. O'Connor, Chief, Beaumont, Tex.: Estimates are only made on those fires which have no insurance. If it is a building fire we usually take into consideration the amount of the building permit which is issued, in case the building is replaced. This applies to non-insured cases.

On all other cases we take the actual loss paid by the insurance company as stated by the company in a report furnished to the fire marshal. Reports are made daily to the state fire marshal at Austin.

These are actual losses and nothing is estimated with the exception of the non-insured. The reports are filed in the state fire marshal's office and at the end of the year each company doing business in the city makes out a sworn statement of the amount of premiums collected and the amount of losses paid. These yearly reports must check with the daily reports.

Jeremiah McGill, Chief, Trenton, N. J.: We communicate with the owner of the property in question and learn from him the company that issued insurance.

An officer of the insurance company reports on the figures to my secretary. The secretary also gets in touch with the owner and checks up the loss. The same procedure is followed where the contents are damaged, either of the owner or a tenant.

We do not try to fool ourselves by making out our own loss, estimated. We get in direct touch with the insurance company and the owner. If John Doe has a loss and is not insured, we obtain from him the cost of replacing the property damaged or destroyed.

Louis McLane, Chief, Charleston, W. Va.: My losses are adjusted through the General Adjustment Bureau or sometimes the insurance company insuring the property. When these two sources of information fail, we estimate the figure.

My assistant chief and the property owner estimate the loss until a settlement is made, then the actual amount is obtained from the adjustment bureau. If the person is not insured, I have to make an estimate, and in doing this, where the property has been used, I estimate its second-hand value. After I receive the loss figures, they are entered in the records.

Thomas J. Nicholas, Chief, Camden, N. J.: I have found that it would be unjust for both the insurance company or the policy holder for me to state the definite fire loss. My position calls for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and not the duties of an insurance adjuster.

If all insurance companies would take an inventory before selling a policy, this would be a great lead for a fire chief to cooperate in the estimation of fire losses.

In order to give both parties a fair deal, we do not figure losses until an estimate is made by a representative of the insurance interests. This figure is then considered official.

Edward Grenfell, Chief, Portland, Ore.: An investigator who responds to all fires makes an estimate of the loss while ascertaining the cause, value of property, insurance and so forth. This loss estimate is very conservative and generally under the real loss. This figure is carried until the actual loss is entered on the records in accordance with a report sent to this office by the insurance adjuster.

At large fires, estimate of losses are given to newspapers by the Chief of Department. Estimated losses on small fires are given out by the investigator.

If the adjuster's report greatly exceeds the investigator's estimate made at the time of the fire, a check is again made, the assured is questioned, and the adjuster is required to furnish an itemized list of damage sustained by assured.

A permanent record is kept of all fire calls and losses, and filed in this office. The records contain all data pertaining to the fire.

(One side of the report is illustrated. On the opposite side of the sheet is space for answers to questions on how extinguished, extinguished before company arrived, who was responsible for fire—owner or occupant, fire record, over-insurance, financial condition and general situation, where were parties concerned at time of fire, persons knowing most about origin of fire, persons interviewed at fire, persons interviewed elsewhere, depositions taken, memorandum of facts, violations, recommendations, etc.)

Henry J. Hyatt, Chief, Fitchburg, Mass.: When the insurance is sufficient to cover the loss, we arrive at the figure by taking the amount paid by the insurance company. Sometimes we believe that the amount paid is more than the actual loss. In case the insurance does not cover the loss, we get in touch with the owners and arrive at the loss as best we can.

The chief of the department makes a report to the state fire marshal after getting the information from the owner or the agent who placed the insurance policy. So far as I know, there is no check on the figures I submit to the state fire marshal. A record is kept of fires and losses from year to year.

Robert L. Laing, Fire Marshal, Seattle, Wash.: Preliminary estimates on damage to buildings and contents are made by our fire investigators. These figures, however, are not entered in our fire loss report book. We send a slip (form used illustrated) to the adjuster, and this slip is returned to us showing the sound value of the building and contents, the insurance, the loss insured and uninsured, and the insurance loss.

In case there is no insurance, the figures of the investigators are used. These figures take into consideration, depreciation, etc.

John L. Casey, Chief, Abington, Mass.: In submitting a report of a fire to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention, the following information is reported:

Assessed value of building which is secured from assessor's office, insurance on building obtained from the insurance company that placed the policy, loss on building also obtained from the insurance company after adjustors have made their report, and the claim has been settled. Where there is no insurance, the estimated damage is secured from a local building contractor. Reports on fire damages are made by the chief.

A check would only be made where there is reason to believe that the property is over-insured or the origin of the fire is doubtful. In such cases it is checked by a member of the fire inspection division of the Department of Public Safety.

Frank B. Moore, Chief, Nashville, Tenn.: The fire department does not make any estimates of damages. The secretary keeps all records of the department and his information of fire damages is secured from owners, occupants, adjusting bureaus and insurance companies.

All damages are checked where possible as to there correctness before entering our records. Where insurance is involved, the actual figures of adjustment are used.

John W. O'Hearn, Chief, Watertown, Mass.: In estimating the sound value, the assessed value is taken as a basis. This is usually low, but the adjusted fire loss is given as the true loss.

The report of fire damages is made by the head of the department to the state fire marshal, and a copy of the report card is illustrated. On the reverse side of the card is space for the following information: Were four or more persons living or usually employed above the second floor, cause of fire, loss of life (men, women and children listed separately), was fire result of carelessness or design, and space for chief's signature and department entries.

To my knowledge, there is no check on the figures submitted.

E. F. Donald, Chief, Greenville, S. C.: We never estimate fire damage until it has been repaired or the insurance company makes a settlement. The fire department makes a report after the settlement, and if no insurance is carried, we check with the owner and obtain the loss.

C. M. Johnson, Chief, Knoxville, Tenn.: All small fires up to two or three hundred dollars loss is usually estimated by the fire chief. He makes the estimate on all fires where no insurance is carried. Losses on larger fires where insurance is carried is arrived at from the report of the fire adjusters.

The chief makes the report on fire losses. There is no check on the figures submitted.

Louis Behrens, Chief, Charleston, S. C.: On all fires where there is a loss, a blank is sent to the insurance company or owner with the request that the values be filled in. The information thus entered is value on building, contents, the insurance carried and damage done, also the name of the company carrying the insurance and the cause of the fire. The fire department enters on this slip the time of fire alarm, number of box, location, owner and occupant's names, description of building and for what the building is used.

At major fires where large losses are sustained, the loss figures are obtained from the adjusters. All damages are checked over by the chief of department before being recorded. Small losses are determined by replacement costs. Where building is damaged, the amount of damage is determined by the cost of replacement stated on the building permit.

F. C. Seibert, Chief, Houston, Tex.: The fire marshal makes the report on fire losses and his office is employed for fire loss figures. The fire insurance adjuster's figures are used as a check.

I. R. Wilson, Chief, Madison, N. J.: We have many mechanics in our volunteer fire department such as general contractors as well as carpenter and plumbing contractors. I usually take one of these men, depending upon the type of building, and rely upon his estimate of the damage.

The chief makes the reports. I have watched these figures and find they tally close with the repair cost. To my knowledge, there is no check on the figures submitted.

Fred J. Washburn, Chief, Auburn, N. Y.: We make a preliminary estimate of the loss, but the insurance adjuster has the final say as to the amount paid. If no insurance is carried, we estimate the loss on the probable cost of replacement.

The insurance agencies report the loss and no check is made unless there is a suspicion of over-insurance.

Arthur A. Griswold, Chief, East Providence, R. I.: Where buildings and contents are insured, a check is made with the insurance adjuster.

If the buildings are not insured, about one-third is added to the tax valuation and the damage estimated accordingly. On contents not insured, the loss is determined after interviewing the owner.

The chief of department makes the report but no check is made of the loss submitted.

N. F. Quiet, Chief, Virginia, Minn.: We use the same method employed by insurance adjusters—so much for each square yard.

The chief of department makes the report. A report is made to the state fire marshal and an estimate of damages written one week after the fire occurred or after the insurance adjusters have settled with the insured.

Chas. H. Fuller, Chief, Pawtucket, R. I.: In regards to estimating fire losses, would say that we do not make any estimates, as we would rather wait for the actual figures.

Within a reasonable time after a fire has occurred, the officer in charge of that district is required to make a visit and get the loss figures from owner and occu-

(*Continued on page* 587)

HERE IS THE PROBLEM FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

What steps have you taken to prevent the dumping of gasoline into sewers?

Are regular inspections made of garages to look for violations?

Do you attempt to regulate the handling of gasoline on city streets?

With the Editor

An Honor Well Deserved

It was a very graceful act on the part of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs at its late convention in voting Chief John W. O'Hearn, of Watertown, Mass., the Secretary-Treasurer for life.

While this was a signal honor, as bestowed upon the faithful Secretary of the Association, it was also a well deserved one. Not only has Chief O'Hearn served in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer from the founding of the Association in 1923, but to him, more than to any other individual, can be attributed the successful history of which the body can boast. Chief O'Hearn has labored in season and out of season for the good of his Association, and that his duties have been both conscientiously and wisely carried out the present enviable position of the Association among fire chiefs' organizations certainly testifies.

The secretary of an association bears a peculiar relation to its successful operation. He usually forms the connecting link between the various administrations, which shift in their personnel from year to year. In this particular case, Chief O'Hearn, as Secretary-Treasurer, has remained the one fixture among changing officers, and thus has preserved the continuity of the organization, where the others have provided the variety. That he has done this with judgment and tact, the harmony which has existed at all times in the organization has well proved. The efficiency of the administration of his office is well proved by the excellence of the arrangements of the various conventions of the Association.

The N. E. A. F. C. has certainly made no mistake in appointing Chief O'Hearn to this permanent position.

Overcoming A Hazard of Natural Gas

The modern fireman has an almost endlessly increasing list of unusual hazards to contend with. He no sooner becomes familiar with one new development of present-day life, than another arises to vex him.

One of the latest of these—occurring in certain localities—is the growing use of natural gas for fuel and lighting purposes. In many sections of the country, it is true, natural gas is an old story and the firemen of such places are familiar with the peculiarities of this substance that has proved such a boon to mankind where available.

But few unfamiliar with its properties know that it is practically odorless, and thus that the usual method of detecting leaks of manufactured gas by the smell cannot be used with the natural product.

As the use of natural gas is greatly increasing, and the prospects for the piping of the substance for long distances for commercial purposes is a certainty, it is of the greatest importance that this odorless feature be thoroughly understood by firemen in any region where its use is apt to become general.

However, science has discovered a remedy for this hazard which may be soon put into practice. This is no less a plan than to produce an artificial odor in the natural gas. Through studies and experiments carried on by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, it has been found that a substance known chemically as ethyl mercaptan will, when introduced into the natural gas mains, produce a very distinctive odor, thus giving warning of any dangerous leaks which may occur. Ethyl mercaptan is an organic sulphur compound, being 51.6 per cent sulphur. The mercaptans somewhat resemble alcohol and are sometimes termed "thio-alcohols." The ethyl has a very intense, disagreeable odor, likened to garlic, onions, decayed cabbage, sewer gas, etc. It therefore quickly draws attention to any leak of the gas. The importance of this to firemen entering a building in which such a leak is present is apparent, as without the detecting substance they might be overcome before being conscious of the presence of the gas, or might carry a light into such a building, causing an explosion and loss of life.

An Incident With a Double Lesson

An incident which occurred in an Eastern city recently contained a double lesson—one on the usefulness of the teachings of the fire drill and the other emphasizing the advantages of the fireproof booth for the projection instruments of the motion picture theatre.

The auditorium of a large public school was well filled with a gathering of pupils from several of the class rooms to witness an educational picture, when the film became ignited and flared up.

At once the fire drill signal was sounded, and the several thousand children filed out in an orderly manner to the street. The blaze was confined to the film, and little damage was done.

If these pupils had not been thoroughly drilled in what to do in just such an emergency, it is a pretty sure guess that the utmost panic and confusion would have resulted, for the big room became rapidly filled with pungent smoke from the burning film. This might easily have resulted in a mad rush for the exits, with some of the weaker pupils trampled and badly injured or killed. But with the steadiness of the fire drill as a

second nature, nothing of this kind happened, and calmness and orderliness was the result. This is what the fire drill has done for thousands of pupils and workers throughout the country.

As to the other lesson, if this inflammable film had been shown in a projection booth not of a fireproof nature, the intense heat of the film would soon have ignited all objects around it, and a quick, hot fire would have been the result, probably spreading before all of the pupils could have made their exit, and thus injuring them, not to speak of heavy property damage.

This emphasizes the wisdom of the provision that insists that all such projection booths shall be of a strictly fireproof nature, so that, in the event of just such a flareup as occurred, the fire will be confined to the booth and spread no further. The regulation calling for this is not only in the interest of public safety, but also is a protection to the proprietor of the motion picture theatre.

Providence Has Attractive Station

A good example of the modern trend in the design of fire stations to harmonize with residential localities is afforded by the two-company station built for the Providence, R. I., fire department. Located on Rochambeau Avenue at Stanley Street, it serves the rapidly growing residential section of the Second Ward.

Of Dutch Colonial style in brick construction, it resembles with its landscaped grounds, a substantial dwelling of recent design. The gabled roof plan is carried out in the "true" dormer windows, the facades of which are in the same plane as the exterior walls of the building. Each pediment is half timbered, with the spaces between the timbers filled with a pattern of irregularly placed bricks in mortar.

Construction is of fire resistive type with brick walls, concrete floors slate roof and staircase of metal with composition treads. An entrance lobby 9 x 12 feet leads to a 19 x 29 foot living room finished with white enamelled brick wainscot, hard plaster walls and floor of quarry tile. The apparatus room adjoining is 28 x 60 feet with ample space for two pieces of apparatus and is finished with walls of salt glazed brick and granolithic floor. Hose racks are provided along the east wall and an additional feature is a Gamewell automatic door opener which also closes the apparatus door after a predetermined period. Two steam heated drying rooms for clothing open from the stair hall as well as an oil storage room. In the rear of these is a toilet and a well equipped kitchen. The upper stair hall is utilized as a locker room opening into the dormitory, 20 x 60 feet with ample space for twenty beds. Two officers' rooms each 14 x 19 feet are at the front and rear of stair hall. The floor covering of these rooms is battleship linoleum. There are four toilets, two shower baths and eight basins in white marble finish with wainscot and floor of tile. The station is heated by steam, a separate gas fired boiler providing the hot water supply. It provides quarters for an engine company and a truck unit.

With its pleasing exterior and well arranged quarters, the new station is a credit to its planners and one of which Chief Charlesworth and his department are justly proud.

JOHN S. COGGESHALL.

Believe it or Not—This is a Fire House in Providence

Creegan Named Chief of Rochester

William J. Creegan has been named head of the fire department in Rochester, N. Y., to take the place of Chief Frank A. Jaynes who has retired.

Mr. Creegan was appointed a member of the Rochester Fire Department on March 20, 1884. He was promoted to Captain, July 2, 1890, to Battalion Chief, December 10, 1901, to Deputy Chief, January 1, 1925 and to head of department, June 1.

Chief William J. Creegan

More Boats for N. Y.

John J. Dorman, Fire Commissioner of New York City, is working for appropriations to finance the construction of additional fireboats. The approximate cost for a modern fireboat to serve the city is $500,000. The present fleet consists of boats that have seen many years service.

Henry J. Gielow, Naval Architect, has designed a steel craft 130 feet long, capable of pumping 16,000 gallons a minute. The boat would be propelled by gasoline engines capable of developing 2,740 horsepower to propel it at a speed of eighteen miles an hour. The fuel tanks would hold 6,000 gallons of gasoline and four thousand pounds of foam powders.

New Mexico Firemen Hold Convention

With a registration of 115 from all over the state, the eighth annual convention of the New Mexico State Firemen's Association held in Deming, June 4 to 6, was a pronounced success. In connection with the convention, the association held its first short course. It was in charge of Dean Rockwood of the University of New Mexico assisted by Prof. Veon C. Keich and Prof. A. Diefendorf, both of the university.

Talks were given by Harry K. Rogers, of the Western Actuarial Bureau, Chicago; F. I. Mosher, American-LaFrance & Foamite Industries Corporation, Elmira, N. Y.; C. B. White, Chief Chemist of the American-LaFrance & Foamite Industries Corporation; L. A. Barley, Chief Engineer, Mountain States Inspection Bureau, Denver, Col.; A. L. Fegan, Walter Kidde & Co., New York; Chief J. B. Brown, Las Vegas, N. M., and the members of the faculty of the University of New Mexico.

On Wednesday evening there was a banquet arranged in the basement of the Methodist Church. Harry K. Rogers was the principal speaker and others on the program, besides the city officials, included H. H. Williams, T. A. Rosenwald, Albuquerque, Secretary of the Association; Chief R. V. Miller of Clovis, and Chief P. D. Miller, of Socorro.

On Thursday evening there was a Goodfellowship Dance in the armory arranged by Julius Pierce, Denver, District Manager for the American-LaFrance. In addition there was a parade, concerts by the Clovis drum and bugle corps and the Deming Concert Band, and a number of other features of entertainment.

The following officers were re-elected: P. D. Miller of Socorro, President; R. V. Miller of Clovis, and Rue Chrisman of Roswell, Vice-Presidents, and T. A. Rosenwald, Albuquerque, Secretary-Treasurer. Ashley Pond of Santa Fe was elected to the newly created office of Third Vice-President.

Muscatine, Ia., Places Pumper in Service—A new 750-gallon pumper has been placed in service in Muscatine, Ia.

Questions and Answers

NOTE—Readers are invited to send in questions, which will be answered in the order received. Names are omitted from questions unless otherwise specified

Hood Over Range Desirable

To the Editor:

Will you kindly answer the following question?

In one of the large kitchens in a local hospital, a regular sixe 6 x 9-foot range is used. The range has four large flames going all the time. The top of the range is 6 feet from the metal ceiling which is very thin, being nailed to a wooden floor. The ceiling gets so hot that it cannot be touched. I placed an ordinary thermometer near it and it registered so high it broke.

I recommended that a hood having an opening in the center about 30 inches wide, to which a flue could be connected, be put over the range to prevent fire. The flue would lead out into the outside atmosphere like a chimney.

Am I correct in my opinion on this subject? I feel the range as used at present represents a severe fire hazard to about 350 people in the building.

M. G.

Answer: You are correct in the stand you take regarding the arrangement of equipment in connection with the range.

It is a hazardous condition to have no protection over the range, for in the event of inflammable greases taking fire on the range there is a possibility of fire communicating through the thin metal ceilings to the combustible materials above.

A large hood over the range is highly desirable, and it should be provided, as you suggest, with a duct leading to the atmosphere on the outside. Then, if fire should take place the flames would be conducted to a point where no damage would be done.

Standardization of Small Hose

To the Editor:

I would appreciate it very much if you would answer the following questions:

I have experienced great difficulty in ordering the proper threads on 1½ and 2-inch unlined linen and rubber lined fire hose. Will you write, stating the proper thread gauge to use when ordering Underwriters' hose threads, standard hose threads and pipe (iron) threads on 1½ and 2-inch fire hose? Also the thread gauge to use on ¾ inch chemical hose.

I would also like to know how long unlined linen fire hose should be used for interior use before being replaced with new hose, assuming that water has not been used in the hose during that time. Also how soon should new hose be installed after water has been used the first time.

Yours truly,

F. A. M.

Answer: We have communicated with the National Board of Fire Underwriters for this data and have received the following information from George W. Booth, Chief Engineer:

"Sub-committee recommendations now before the Sectional Committee of the American Standards Association for adoption as National Standard include the following thread dimensions:

"For all hose 2-inch and smaller used for fire protection purposes, one size of thread having an outside diameter of male of 2.00 inches and a pitch of nine threads per inch.

"For ¾ and 1 inch chemical hose, one size of thread having an O. D. of 1.375 inches and pitch of eight thread per inch.

"Investigation shows that there exists a lack of uniformity in hose and couplings for lead-in and standpipe service both as to diameter of hose or the coupling threads. These recommendations are believed to be the best solution in setting up a standard toward which all may work to the best advantage.

"The second recommendation noted is in line with the adopted trade practice and is the thread found on more than ninety per cent of the existing chemical hose couplings.

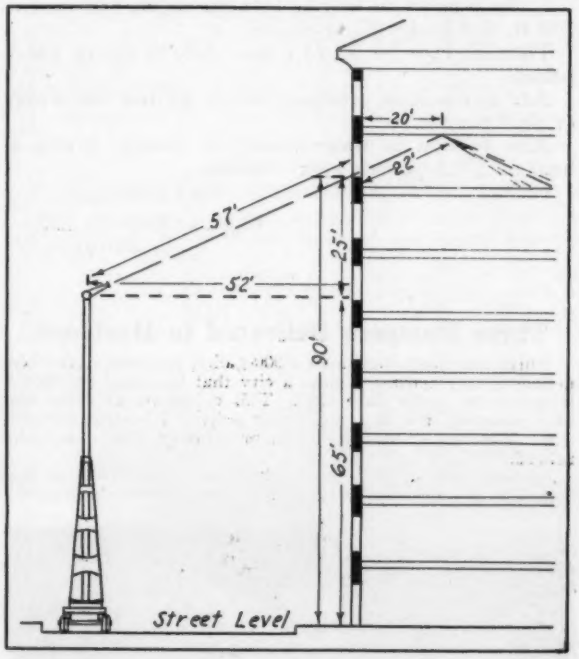
"Some standards were adopted by certain interests some years ago. Except to a very limited extent these standards have not been followed and in view of more recent developments are not likely to be. As the recommendations first mentioned are quite likely to be adopted as the American Standard threads, we feel it advisable to comply with them on all new installations.

If linen hose is taken care of properly, precautions taken that no acid is permitted to come in contact with the hose, and if the hose is washed and dried thoroughly before it is placed in service again after once used, there is no reason why such hose should not last indefinitely.

Water Tower Problem Again

To the Editor:

Allow me space to enter the discussion of "Placing water tower" which you answered on page 283 of the issue of April 2nd, 1930, in which you state that the



distance of the tower to the building should be the same as the distance from the top of the tower nozzle to the sill which it should cross, and in this case 25 feet.

The building in question being 100 feet high, fire on the 8th floor, a 70-foot street, curb to curb, faces the fire, and the procedure should be as follows: extend tower full height 65 ft. Stream is to enter 8th floor, crossing the sill. Allowing 12½ ft. per story we have 7 stories plus 2½ ft. for sill, totaling 90 feet from ground. The sill is then 90 ft. minus 65 for height of tower, or 25 ft. above the top of the tower extended.

Remembering that the most effective water tower streams are those that strike the ceiling of the fire floor

a distance of about 20 feet in beyond the face wall of the building, the following formula is to be used to obtain results.

Proportion: Take distance between nozzle height and sill, 25 ft.; the distance between nozzle height and street, and horizontal distance the stream travels in on ceiling and arrange them thusly.

25:65: :20:?

Multiply the means 65×20 and divide by extreme 20 and the answer is 52 feet exactly which is the position the tower should be placed from the building.

By taking an 18-foot *"penetration"*—which is the proper word or expression to use—and using the same method as above, viz.: 25:65: :18:? we get a distance of 46 feet. By a 25-foot penetration we get a position of 65 feet from the fire building, all of which are right.

Regarding the nozzle pressure or engine pressure, the proper nozzle pressure in this or any other case would be to take the total distance the stream is traveling from the nozzle to the ceiling (in this case approximately 80 feet) and allow 1 pound per foot plus 10 pounds for effectiveness at the striking point (ceiling) causing the water to deflect about 50 feet further back; therefore 1 pound per foot is 80 pounds, plus 10 equals 90 pounds at the nozzle. The engine pressure can then be figured from this point: N. P. × (1. 1. K. X. L.), including, of course, the pressure required for elevation, back pressure, and loss in fittings.

K for 2 lines (parallel) 2½-inch hose with 1½-inch nozzle is 0.135.

L, the number of lengths between engine and nozzle, 200 ft. divided by 50, or 4.

Then E. P.= 90 × (1.1 plus .135 × 4), or 147.6 pounds.

Add to this back pressure, .434 × 65 feet for tower, or 28.2 pounds.

Also friction in water tower, 15 pounds, giving a total of 190.8 pounds approximately.

MAX VALLEN,
Captain, Eng. Co. 222,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Three Pumpers Delivered to Hartford

Three American-LaFrance 1,000-gallon pumpers have been delivered to Hartford, Conn., a city that has been standardizing on this make since 1912. This completes an order for four pumpers, the first one being delivered several months ago. The last of the city's tractor steamers has now been retired.

Underwriters' tests were conducted on the banks of the Connecticut river, in the presence of Chief Moran, George W. Sanford, President of the Fire Board, and other city officials. During one of the tests the three pumpers sent water through the largest nozzle in the department and the discharge was computed at 2,300 gallons a minute.

Conducting Underwriters' Tests on Hartford's Three New 1,000-Gallon Pumpers

SOUTHEASTERN CHIEFS HOLD CONVENTION AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Talks by Well Known Chiefs—Convention Closes with Banquet—Excellent Entertainment — Officers Re-elected

CHARLOTTE, N. C., was host to members of the Southeastern Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, who gathered in that city for their third annual convention on June 24 and 25. On the afternoon of the first day while the convention details were being taken care of, the women guests were taken for a tour of the city and suburbs and to a theatre party.

The delegates were welcomed by Mayor George E. Wilson and Clarence O. Kuester of the Chamber of Commerce. The response was made by Roscoe A. Foster, chief of the department of the Portsmouth, Va., navy yard. The entertainment was in charge of Chief Hendrix Palmer of the Charlotte Fire Department. During the convention, talks were given by Chief D. W. Brosnan of Albany, Ga., Chief R. A. Baughan of Norfolk and Chief A. C. Altvater of Sebring, Fla. Col. Walker Taylor of Wilmington who was to have delivered an address was too ill to attend.

Memorial services were conducted in the Carolina Theatre and W. S. Charles delivered the memorial address.

The next convention will be held in Athens, Ga. Asheville had asked for the convention, but it withdrew from the contest when it saw the efforts made by Athens to secure the 1931 gathering.

With the exception of the treasurer, all the officers were re-elected. The officers for the coming year are Sherwood Brockwell, Raleigh, N. C., President; John H. Monroe, Savannah, Ga., First Vice-President; H. B. Wells, Newberry, S. C., Second Vice-President; John L. Miller, Concord, N. C., Secretary, and R. A. Baughan of Norfolk, Va., Treasurer.

The convention closed with a banquet at which a musical program was given by the Greensboro Fire Department Band and the Charlotte Fire Department Glee Club. A number of girls from the Henderson School of Dancing entertained.

The association now has 159 paid memberships. Counting the visitors, about 250 persons attended the convention.

Jersey City Fights Paint Fire

The new American-LaFrance 65-foot water tower, used for the first time in Jersey City, N. J., helped to extinguish a three-alarm paint warehouse fire. Before the flames were under control, three firemen were injured and a stock of canned paint valued at $65,000 was destroyed.

The fire was discovered noon hour and it is believed to have been caused by defective wiring. When the first company arrived, two alarms were turned in and a special call made for the water tower. One hour later, the flames were extinguished.

Gamewell Takes Over Rockwood Sprinkler

The Gamewell Company has taken over the Rockwood Sprinkler Company of Worcester, Mass. At the same time, V. C. Stanley, President of the Gamewell Company, was elected President of the Rockwood Sprinkler Company, and its associated companies, the Rockwood Sprinkler Company, of Illinois, and the Worcester Fire Extinguisher Company, Ltd., of Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Stanley heads the company, which in addition to the Rockwood group, consists of the Holtzer-Cabot Electric Company of Boston and the Eagle Signal Sales Corporation of Moline, Ill.

V. C. Stanley

Movies of Fire Chief

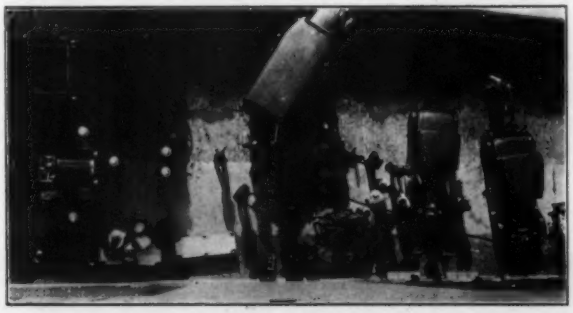
George M. Kellogg, Chief of Sioux City, Ia., will soon make his bow as a motion picture actor. He will appear in a reel of sound news event taken by a Pathé cameraman in recognition of Chief Kellogg's record as the oldest Fire Chief in the United States in point of service.

NEW YORK CITY BATTLES TWO 5-ALARM FIRES IN 12 HOURS

Warehouse of National Sugar Refining Company Destroyed—Firemen in Car Barns in Queens Endangered by Live Power Lines—Cars Burned

By WM. JEROME DALY

TWO fires of fifth alarm proportions occurring within twelve hours of each other in the old Long Island City section of New York City gave the fire fighters of that area a lot of fast and intensive work. The first fire was at 4 p. m. Monday, June 16, in the warehouse of the



Five Firemen Overcome at Four-Alarm Fire

Fire attacked a one-story storage house of a sugar company in Long Island City, L. I. Four alarms were sounded and it was necessary to cut a hole in the roof to get at the flames. Five firemen were overcome by smoke. The photograph, taken from a nearby building, shows the overcome firemen being treated.

National Sugar Refining Company on the East River waterfront from Seward to 50th Streets. The second fire was at 4 a. m. Tuesday, June 17 in the car sheds of the New York & Queens Traction Company at Woodside on the edge of Long Island City. Six trolley cars were destroyed, half the car sheds toppled in and trolley service was crippled for nearly a day.

A dozen firemen were partially overcome at the sugar warehouse fire, due to pungent smoke from burning burlap bags stored high in the old building where there was hardly any ventilation. Battalion Chief James Deasy, of Long Island City, responded on the box and "hooked it for second and a third in quick succession," as he puts it himself. Deputy Chief George L. McKenna sounded the fourth and fifth alarms. It was said that sugar house employees had been vainly trying to combat the flames themselves before they deemed it prudent to sound the public fire alarm. Lack of windows in the part of the one block long warehouse where the fire was merrily blazing among the burlap bags, gave the firemen a difficult task to accomplish. The fire was extinguished only after several of them had to be carried out.

It was necessary to breach the wall in places to get bent pipes in to drown out the flames. It required six hours of incessant work. The temperature of the weather was so high that it weakened the firemen at times. Most of the night was required to overhaul the smoldering stock. Nobody could hazard a guess as to how the fire started.

The car barns were one of the old landmarks of that section of the Borough of Queens. The fire started in the barns proper and with the aid of a strong east wind, the fire was carried outside the building to the open parking tracks where hundreds of cars were stored over-night preparatory to making early morning runs. The cars are valued at about $5,000 each.

Again Battalion Chief Deasy and Deputy Chief McKenna responded, the flames having gained unusual headway and due to the rapidity with which the fire spread through open windows to adjoining car storage tracks, Chief McKenna ordered a fourth and fifth alarms. In that part of Queens County the city fire department provides for about fifteen fire companies at a fifth alarm fire, and since the area to be covered and controlled was nearly a half a block square, the firemen had their hands full.

Live trolley wires falling to the street gave the firemen added hazards to contend with until the "juice" was shut off. Assistant Chief of Department Patrick Walsh who is alternating daily with Assistant Chief Thomas F. Dougherty in covering large fires responded from lower Manhattan and took command.

Both fires being close to the Queensboro Bridge over the East River at Welfare (Blackwells) Island, the fifth alarm brought engine companies from Manhattan.

WHAT'S BURNING

THE following list includes fires of $25,000 loss and over in the United States and Canada, for the periods designated in the headings. These figures, compiled from telegraphic reports, are based on estimates made at the time, and are subject to later investigation and consequent revision. Taken as a whole, however, they give an approximately correct view of the losses incurred. The figures represent loss in thousands of dollars.

Week Ending June 27

	Loss in Thousands of Dollars
STANTON, DEL.—Bldg. of Ad-Tissue Corp., damaged	175
GLOUCESTER, OHIO—Property of Sunday Creek Coal Co.	40
BUTTE, MONT.—Nevin-Frank Bottling Wks. adj. property	50
WATCH HILL, R. I.—Property of Harry Darlington	45
THE DALLES, ORE.—Whse. of Wasco Whse. & Milling Co.	40
WALLA WALLA, WASH.—Northern Flour Mill destroyed	180
TACOMA, WASH.—Fisher Company whse., adj. property	45
MOUNT AUBURN, OHIO—Mount Auburn M. E. Church	25
ST. LOUIS, MO.—Plant of National Furniture Co.	30
PINEVILLE, LA.—General store of L. L. Brice	40
MARCUS HOOK, PA.—Plant of Sun Oil Company damaged	40
COLUMBUS, OHIO—East Broad St. Photographer studio	80
FRANKLIN, LA.—Sugar mill of J. M. Burginer s Company	400
WARDNER, IDAHO—Mining property of John George	80
OAKLEY, CALIF.—Several business establishments	50
PRINCE ALBERT, SASK.—Prince Albert Laundry damaged	25
CHICAGO, ILL.—Municipal Airport property	800
PORT ARTHUR, TEX.—Property of Texas Refinery, Co.	800
HUNTER, N. Y.—Breezy Hill House of Joseph Phell	30
SHENANDOAH, PA.—Entire block of property destroyed	65
WOODSIDE, N. Y.—Car barn of New York & Queens Railway	400
GREENWOOD LAKE, N. Y.—Murchio's Spanish Gardens destroyed	40

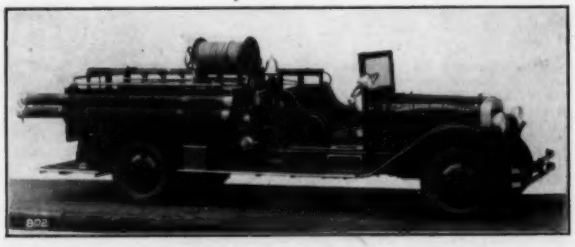
Week Ending July 3

OLEAN, N. Y.—Tank of Vacuum Oil Co., adj. property	125
ALBANY, WIS.—Cheese factory destroyed	25
BOYERTOWN, PA.—Farm property of L. H. B. Rhoads	65
FORT WAYNE, IND.—Property of the Wayne Company	60
BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Oceanic Hotel, adj. property, Coney Island	50

Ahrens-Fox Announces New Junior Line

A new fire-fighting unit, the Junior Model V of 500-gallon capacity, has been announced by the Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company.

The new apparatus is characterized by its low center of gravity—in fact, the top of the windshield is but 6 ft. 3 in. from the ground. The body is welded together, no rivets being used. The pumping unit is so installed that the



Junior Model V Ahrens-Fox 500-Gallon Pumper

driver's seat is kept low but the space under the seat is not crowded. An improved type of relief valve is used. All of the gauges on the apparatus are frostproof.

A specially designed 94 h.p. motor is provided and the pump is of the rotary type. In developing the Junior V, standards of the Society of Automotive Engineers have been observed.

St. Paul to Erect Two New Fire Houses—Awards have been made for the construction of two new fire stations for St. Paul, Minn., one for $28,900 and the other for $29,200.

Fire Survey to be Made of Williamsburg, Va.—Upon the request of Williamsburg, Va., a fire survey will be made to determine the fire apparatus that is necessary to protect the community.

New England Chiefs Discuss Fire Fighting

(*Continued from page 570*)

The report of Secretary-Treasurer O'Hearn showed that the association has 664 members and is in a healthy financial condition.

Automatic Sprinkler Alarm Systems

The first speaker was Chief Charles E. Fortin, of Lewiston, Me., who read a paper on "Automatic Sprinkler Alarm Systems" in which he told of the successful results obtained from the installation of such a system in Lewiston. He said in part:

"Let us consider for a moment the hundreds of thousands of automatic sprinkler heads all over this country. Every chief present here will admit the value of these units as fire extinguishers and retarders. Now picture each of this vast quantity of sprinkler heads as a fire department nerve that will instantly warn the department of the existence and exact location of a fire without the aid of a human hand. Were such the case, you will say, the fire losses of the country would be greatly reduced. Yet it is a simple matter to make this an actuality.

"In Lewiston about three years ago an effort was made to secure Class B insurance rating, but this was refused owing to the presence of so many wooden buildings in the very heart of the city. For quite a long time various plans were considered in an effort to give the business district better protection. Finally it was felt that if the sprinkler systems of all the leading business houses could be hooked up with fire headquarters so that the opening of a sprinkler head in any of these places of business would be recorded immediately and instantly at fire headquarters we would be in a position to keep down fire and water losses to a minimum in these valuable properties which were not only important from a taxable standpoint but were also large contributing factors toward the community pay envelope. At the same time there was a possibility of securing better insurance rates for this class of buildings.

"A meeting was held of the owners of sprinklered buildings and as a result a special sprinkler alarm system was installed connecting with fire headquarters and under the direct supervision of the fire department.

"This is known as the 'Sprinkler Watchman Circuit.' All alarms received over this circuit are responded to by Engine 2, which is manned by a crew trained to handle sprinkler systems as well as fires. This engine crew is equipped with six extra sprinkler heads for replacement purposes.

"Upon the arrival of Engine 2 at the scene of the fire the nearest street fire alarm box is sounded in the event that the blaze is too large for one company to handle."

Chief Fortin gave details of the system in Lewiston which he said had proved very efficient and had resulted in lowering the insurance rates.

Chief Edward F. Dahill, of New Bedford, Mass., and Chief Henry R. Taft, of Norwich, Conn., took part in discussion of the paper.

Resolution of Sympathy to Mayor Curley

Theodore A. Glynn, ex-fire commissioner of Boston, proposed that the association adopt a resolution of sympathy and condolence to Mayor James M. Curley, of Boston, upon the death of Mrs. Curley and it was voted unanimously to send this message.

Mutual Aid and Cooperation of Fire Departments

The second address of the afternoon was on "Mutual Aid and Co-operation of Fire Departments" and was given by H. S. Walker, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association. The speaker reviewed the early history of mutual aid in New England, telling of the co-operation of East Boston, Chelsea, and Charlestown which began in 1877. He told of later agreements between Boston and Milton and Boston and Somerville and of the establishment of mutual aid by Lynn Swampscott in 1893.

The idea has been gaining ground in reent years, Mr. Walker said. He mentioned the agreements existing between Chelsea, Everett Malden, and Revere and between Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Medford, and Somerville. He told of the system recently worked out for mutual aid in Westchester County, N. Y., and told of the co-operation between Hartford and West Hartford. The questions of liability and legality were also considered by the speaker.

Chief Henry A. Fox, of Boston; Ex-Chief Daniel F. Sennott, of Boston; and Chief E. E. Humphrey, of Newport, Vt., took part in discussion of the subject.

Proper Sized Mains for Distribution System

The next paper was by P. C. Charnock, engineer of the New England Insurance Exchange, on "Proper Sized Mains for a Reasonably Good Water Distribution System."

He declared that all 4-inch pipe should be removed and that many cities are now laying nothing under 8-inch mains. He mentioned the need for elimination of dead ends and said that the probable fire demand should determine the size of the mains. He said that 6 and 8-inch pipes were recommended for residential districts and 8 and 12-inch pipes for mercantile and manufacturing districts.

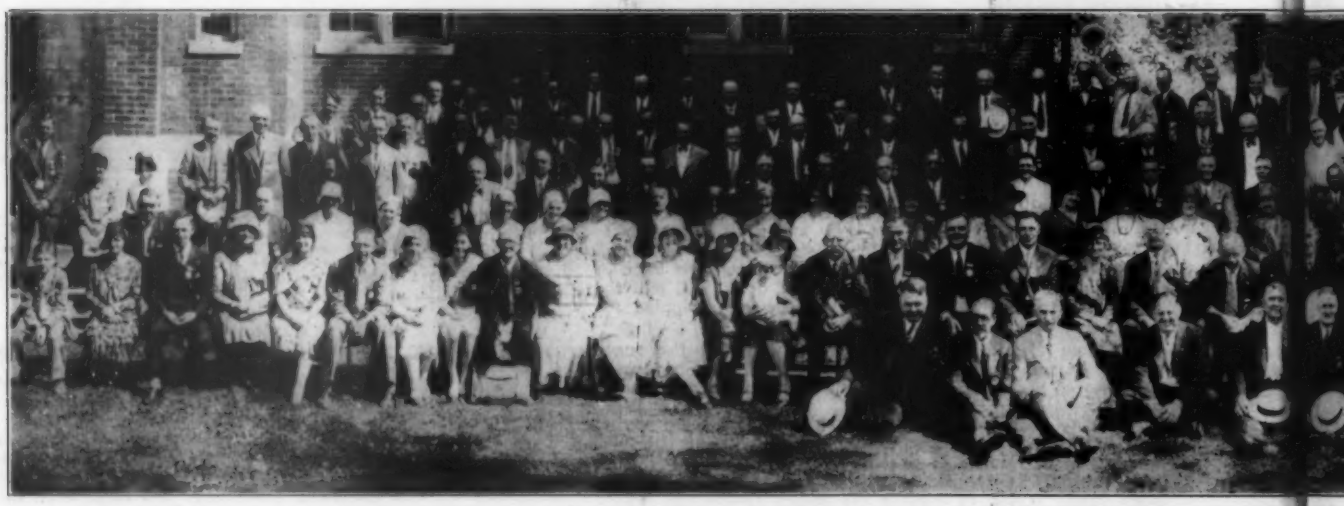
In reply to a question by Chief O'Hearn as to whether in laying out mains the question of a conflagration was considered, Mr. Charnock said:

"No city is capable of supplying enough water to extinguish a conflagration once it has gotten beyond the control of the fire department. The aim is to furnish sufficient water to take care of serious fires and protect the surrounding property. In the Fall River conflagration 10,000 gallons of water a minute were used and the fire was checked. It did not burn itself out in this case."

The Exhibits

Great credit is due Chief Daniel B. Tierney, of Arlington, Mass., Chairman of the Exhibit Committee, for the attractive arrangement of the apparatus and accessories in the Rutland Memorial Armory.

A new plan was used which seemed to meet with general approval. The pumping engines and ladder trucks were placed around the sides of the hall with the smaller exhibits grouped in the center.



Members and Guests of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs Attending th ghth

The exhibition of fire equipment was one of the finest ever seen at a New England convention.

The American-LaFrance and Foamite Corporation showed a Master series 1,000-gallon pump, hose, and booster car for the town of Belmont, Mass.; a type 91 500-gallon pump, hose, and booster car; a type 99 500-gallon LaFrance-G.M.C. pump, hose, and booster, and a complete line of industrial fire equipment. The representatives in charge were Assistant Sales Manager J. W. White, of New York; Joseph W. Webber, N. E. fire apparatus manager; Kenneth W. Cole, N. E. Industrial manager; H. S. Snodgrass, factory chief engineer; A. H. Starr, N. E. resident engineer; Jess Edwards, factory representative; and salesmen Roy K. Small and Edward J. Spellman.

The Seagrave Corporation, of Columbus, O., showed a 500-gallon pumper and hose wagon for Westfield and a ladder truck with booster pump for Abington. Both pieces of apparatus were equipped with Cambridge windshields. Frank E. Taft, N. E. manager, was in charge, assisted by factory chief engineer H. A. Havens and Philip Putney.

The Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company, of Cincinnati, O., displayed a 750-gallon triple combination rotary pumper. The representatives were Charles Fox, president; Harry Carlow, N. E. distributor; salesmen George Wheeler and E. G. Moulton, and Frederic E. Bensen, Eastern selling agent.

The Mack Motor Truck Company exhibited a type 50 500-gallon rotary pumper, hose wagon, and booster; a type 70 600-gallon pumper, hose, and booster; and a type 19 1,000-gallon pumper, hose, and booster car. The officials in charge were D. C. Fenner, vice-president; Harry J. Lovell, of the N. E. division; Walter McLean, of the N. E. division; and engineers John Davis and C. Anderson.

The Maxim Motor Company, of Middleboro, Mass., showed a 1,000-gallon pumper equipped with booster tank; a double banked ladder truck with booster pump for town service which has been sold to Holliston, Mass.; and a 500-gallon pumper, hose, and booster for Somerset, Mass. The Maxim staff was composed of C. W. Maxim, president; E. L. Maxim, treasurer and general manager; F. B. Alger, sales manager; M. A. Shaw, service manager; C. A. Carey, chief engineer; J. C. Whitcomb, assistant engineer; and demonstrators William Winberg and Harold Hemmingson.

The Sanford Motor Truck Company, of Syracuse, N. Y., showed a 500-gallon pumper and hose car with 150-gallon booster tank for Windsor, N. Y. J. K. Howard, Chief engineer, was in charge, assisted by salesmen George H. Rausch and E. F. Dougherty.

The Gamewell Company, of Newton Upper Falls, Mass., showed a succession non-interfering four number transmitter, Excelsior puncturing register, 1929 succession box, auxiliarized succession box, rectifier switchboard, and engine house tap bell. Frank M. Tiffany, G. G. Toone, William J. Carroll, and Charles "Sandy" Chapman were the representatives in charge.

The Eureka Fire Hose Manufacturing Company displayed cotton jacketed fire hose of their well known makes. A. Lee Cowles and H. R. Cowles were in charge.

The Arthur H. Blanchard Co., of Cambridge, Mass., showed portable pumps for fighting forest fires, Blanchard angle nozzles, hose made by the Boston Woven Hose and Rubber Co.; and other fire department supplies. H. C. Spaulding, Edward "Tip" O'Neill, R. G. Brown, and Frank Grant were in charge.

A complete line of fire department supplies was shown by the Henry K. Barnes Co., of Boston. Justin A. McCarthy and A. E. Lindh were in charge.

The Horni Signal Manufacturing Corporation, of New York, showed a number of different types of fire alarm boxes including the latest model used by the New York fire department.

The American Fire Equipment Company exhibited Fomon, the King Lite, Baer turret pipes, Eastman deluge guns, and fire department supplies. H. W. Tracy, J. J. Scully, and J. A. McLoughlin were in charge.

The Fire Cry, the automatic alarm bell, was shown by Capt. Hammond, of the Albert C. Hammond Co., Inc., of Providence, R. I.

The Fabric Fire Hose Company was represented by Robert Many, N E. Manager, William H. Lewis, Robert M. Wood, Philip Wood, and William A. Abbott.

The Fire Equipment Company, of Springfield, showed department supplies including hose made by the B. F. Goodrich Rubber Co.

Gas masks and inhalators were shown by the Mine Safety Appliance Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and the Guardall extinguishers by the American Electrical Co. Knight and Thomas showed the Underwriters extinguishers.

Air whistles for fire alarm use were shown by R. W. LeBaron, of Arlington; Eddy hydrants by the Eddy Valve Co., of Waterford, N. Y.; nozzles by the Boston Coupling Co.; badges by the C. G. Braxmar Co.; and fire department supplies by the Gorham Equipment Co., of Boston.

On exhibition outside the armory the new searchlight wagon of the Arlington, Mass., fire department attracted much attention. This is a Kohler lighting plant mounted on a Federal chassis and capable of generating 2,000 watts. One 500-watt light and four 250-watt lights are part of the equipment which includes 1,000 feet of wire to permit of taking the lights to any point desired near a burning building.

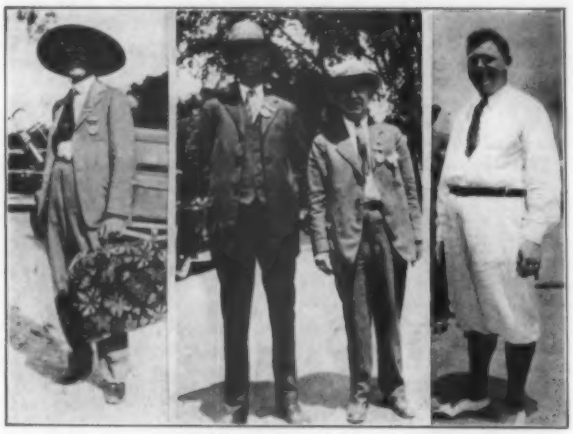
Fyre Freeze and Lux extinguishers were demonstrated by Harold W. de Veer, Massachusetts distributor for Walter Kidde & Co., Inc.

The Henry K. Barnes Company showed a complete line of fire department equipment including the new Chimney Fire Extinguishing Fusee, of the Central Railway Signal Company. Walter L. Wedger, of the latter firm, put on an exhibition of the fusees and of the red signal flares used by railroads.

Other exhibits in the park outside the armory were a

nding th ghth Annual Convention, Assembled on the Lawn Outside the Armory, Rutland, Vt.

Ford squad car equipped with booster pump built by Rausch & Lang, Inc., of Chicopee, Mass., and a forest fire pump made by the Pacific Marine Supply Company of Seattle,



Some of the New England Convention High Lights

Left to right—Chief Woodward, Danielson, Conn., bedecked in his newest traveling regalia; Chief Henry A. Fox and Ex-Chief Daniel Sennott of Boston; Chief A. H. Koltonski, of Rutland, who was on the jump day and night.

Wash. These were shown by the A. H. Blanchard Company.

The complete list of exhibitors was as follows:

American LaFrance and Foamite Corp., Elmira, N. Y.
Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Co., Cincinnati, O.
The Seagrave Corp., Columbus, O.
Mack Motor Truck Co., Allentown, Pa.
Maxim Motor Co., Middleboro, Mass.
Sanford Motor Truck Co., Syracuse, N. Y.
Knight & Thomas Co., Boston.
The Portolite Co., Cambridge, Mass.
American Electrical Co., Boston.
The Kohler Co., Kohler, Wis.
Federal Motor Truck Co., Detroit, Mich.
FIRE ENGINEERING, New York City.
Horni Signal Mfg. Corp., New York.
American Fire Equipment Co., Boston.
Eureka Fire Hose Mfg. Co., New York.
The Gamewell Co., Newton Upper Falls, Mass.
Arthur H. Blanchard Co., Cambridge, Mass.
Mine Safety Appl. Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
R. W. LeBaron, Arlington, Mass.
Samuel Eastman Co., Concord, N. H.
Portable Lighting Equip. Co., Boston.
D. R. Smith Co., New York.
Fire Equipment Co., Springfield, Mass.
C. G. Braxmar Co., New York.
Gorham Equipment Co., Boston.
Boston Coupling Co.
Kendall Mfg. Co.
Eddy Valve Co., Waterford, N. Y.
Walter Kidde & Co., Inc., New York.
Henry K. Barnes Co., Boston.
Fabric Fire Hose Co., New York.
Albert C. Hammond Co., Inc., Providence, R. I.
D. G. Hill Co., Providence, R. I.

Second Day Devoted to Exhibits and Demonstrations

The second day of the convention was devoted to exhibits and demonstrations. There was a concert by the Rutland City Band in Main Street Park.

Chief Selden R. Allen, of Brookline, Mass., and Assistant Chief Ralph Bean, of the Rutland Fire Department, had charge of the tests which were held on Main Street about a half block from the armory.

Fyre Freeze Extinguishers were shown in action by H. W. de Veer, Massachusetts distributor for Walter Kidde & Co., Inc., who was assisted by Alex McKenney. Tubs containing a mixture of gasoline, oil, lacquer, and alcohol were ignited and then quickly extinguished by Fyre Freeze which was also operated very effectively on a leaking kettle containing blazing gasoline.

For the water demonstrations of various nozzles and deck pipes Engine 1 of the Rutland fire department was connected to a hydrant and hose lines were run to the testing point.

The American Fire Equipment Company, of Boston, displayed in action an Eastman deluge gun with 1½-inch tip when two hose lines were connected to it and with a 1¼-inch tip when three lines were connected. The Baker turret pipe and Baker cellar pipe were also shown in action.

The Boston Coupling Company showed the Grant portable multiversal nozzle made by the Akron Brass Company. Both two and three lines from the pumping engine were used.

After the above tests had been made with regular 2½-inch hose the A. H. Blanchard Company demonstrated portable forest fire pumps using 1½-inch hose.

Entertainment for Ladies

In the afternoon there was a trip to Lake Bomoseen.

The program of entertainment for the ladies attending the convention included an automobile trip to the marble quarries at West Rutland and Proctor; bridge and buffet lunch at the Elks Club; automobile trip to Plymouth, home of Ex-President Coolidge; bridge and buffet lunch at the Knights of Pythias Club; dinner at Long Trail Lodge; and a shopping trip.

On Wednesday evening there was a concert by the Green Mountain Singers in the high school auditorium. This was especially fine and was greatly enjoyed by those who attended.

In the late afternoon a considerable number of the visiting chiefs responded when the alarm sounded for a fire which proved to be in a shed attached to a house at 70 Forrest Street. The blaze had obtained much headway and the paint on the adjoining house was blistered; but the Rutland department laid two lines of hose and made a quick stop.

A Spectacular Stunt

At 7:30 P.M. at the corner of Center and Wales Streets almost in front of the Hotel Berwick a spectacular "stunt" was pulled. An old dilapidated automobile came zigzagging down the hill and the driver, in a high hat, got out and, lighting a match, threw it under the hood. Flames shot high in the air, for the car had been saturated with gasoline. Chief Koltonski, as had been prearranged, pulled the box on the corner and the Rutland fire apparatus reached the scene in 60 seconds flat. Fyre Freeze extinguishers were used to put out the blaze, the test having been arranged by Harold W. deVeer, of Walter Kidde & Co. The aerial ladder truck of the Rutland department was raised and the extension ladder placed against the roof of the hotel. Firemen Rice and Seward then slid down ropes to the sidewalk.

What Is an Emergency?

The Thursday morning session of the convention was held in the Strand Theatre where the Fire College Motion

A View of the Exhibit Hall at the New England Fire Chiefs' Convention, Rutland, Vt.

A feature which added to the attractiveness of the display was the arrangement of motor apparatus on the sides with smaller equipment exhibits in the center

Everybody Was Smiling at the Rutland Convention of the N. E. A. F. C.

Left to Right—Fred E. Bensen, Harry Carlow, Chas. H. Fox and E. G. Moulton of the Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Co.; Wm. H. Lewis, Fabric Fire Hose Co.; Ex-Chief F. I. Morris, Lawrence, Mass.; Chief F. E. Dickinson, Brockton, Mass.; Chief J. C. Sullivan, Lowell, Mass.

Picture and Talkie of the International Association of Fire Chiefs was shown.

The first speaker was John S. Caldwell, assistant secretary of the New England Insurance Exchange, who spoke on the topic 'What Is An Emergency?" He declared that an emergency is often the result of a lack of intelligent preparation. He told of the trouble caused at the Great Baltimore Fire by different sized hose couplings and said this led to the adoption of the national standard hose thread. At the Fall River fire he said 31 pumpers from outside municipalities were able to render service. He pointed out the need for trained men in the fire service and for fire prevention bureaus.

Those who took part in discussion were Chief Oliver T. Sanborn, of Portland, Me.; Chief George L. Johnson, of Waltham, Mass.; Chief Frank P. Hall, of Athol, Mass., and Supt. Peter E. Walsh, of the Boston Protective Department.

"Over insurance" was blamed for many fires by Chief Johnson and other speakers confirmed this view.

Chief Joseph N. Sullivan, of Utica, N. Y., first vice-president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, brought greetings from Chief Ralph Scott, of Los Angeles, Cal., the president. He told of plans for extending the talking movie instruction plan for fire department training and for making such films available.

A Talking Motion Picture on Building Inspection

A talking motion picture was then shown, the lecture on building inspection being given by Capt. S. Dodd, of the Los Angeles fire department. There was also a comedy reel shown and a news reel of convention views.

Chief Dougherty on Practical Fire Fighting

Asst. Chief Thomas F. Dougherty, of the New York fire department, gave a talk on practical fire fighting. He described a number of different types of fires and pointed out the need for proper ventilation of burning buildings. He stressed the value of automatic vents over shafts and stairways and gave details of the use of deck pipes and ladder pipes at large fires. He predicted an increasing use of CO_2 extinguishers. The chief gave an interesting account of the collapse of floors in the Butler Bros. store fire in New York when a steel support gave way.

The next speaker was T. Alfred Fleming, of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. He described the fires at the Cleveland Clinic and the Detroit Night Club, both of which resulted in heavy loss of life. He also spoke of the need of frequent building inspections which he said should be made by fire department members working under a fire prevention bureau which he said should be part of every fire department under direction of the chief, free from political influence, and backed up by satisfactory laws.

The final speaker of the morning was Charles "Sandy" Chapman, of the Gamewell Company, who ended his talk by reciting the verses about "The Men With the Ladder and the Hose."

It was voted to hold the election of officers at the close of the afternoon session, omitting the Friday morning meeting.

Modern Fire House Construction

George Ernest Robinson, the Boston architect who specializes in fire house designs, was the first speaker at the afternoon session which was held in Odd Fellows' Hall. He gave an interesting talk and told of modern fire-house construction.

"Seeing the Fire Department Through the Eyes of the Camera" was the title of the motion picture film shown by Roland L. Smith, of the Portalite Co., of Cambridge, Mass.

Harold W. deVeer, of Walter Kidde & Co., gave a talk in which he described the development of CO_2 extinguishers and their varied uses.

The question of assessment insurance for death benefits was brought up and it was voted to appoint a committee to investigate the matter. Discussion of the subject was participated in by Chief Joseph Kelly, of Danvers, Mass.; Ex-Chief Sennott, of Boston; and Ex-Chief Charles H. Rose, of New London, Conn.

The report of the committee on courtesies was then received and also the report of the registration committee, the latter report showing a total attendance at he convenion of 507 persons.

Upon motion by Chief Henry A. Fox, of Boston, seconded by Chief Selden R. Allen, of Brookline, Mass., it unanimously voted to elect Ex-Chief Daniel F. Sennott, of the Boston fire department, an honorary life member of the association.

The next business was the choosing of Boston for the 1931 convention and the election of officers.

Chief Reif, the retiring president, was presented with a past president's badge and with a gold watch as a token of esteem. Chief John C. Moran, of Hartford, Conn., made the presentation in behalf of the association.

Chief O'Hearn Elected Secretary for Life

Upon motion by Chief Fox, of Boston, Chief John W. O'Hearn, of Watertown, Mass., was elected Secretary-Treasurer for life, after glowing tributes to his work for the association had been paid by Chief Allen and Chief Reif.

Chief Mahoney, of Peabody, upon request of Chief Casey, of Cambridge, explained the Massachusetts pension bill for the widows and orphans of firemen who are killed in performance of duty.

Following this the convention adjourned.

Luncheon and get-to-gether meetings were held by chiefs from Maine and from Connecticut.

(*For list of those present at the convention see page* 584)

Brooklyn Fire Alarm to Be Improved

The Board of Estimate, New York City, voted $292,000 for the improvement of the fire alarm system in Brooklyn and Queens boroughs. Of this amount Brooklyn will spend $192,000 and Queens $100,000.

The amounts allotted for fire alarm improvements in the various districts of Brooklyn were: Greenpoint and Williamsburgh, $80,000; Flatbush, $50,000; Coney Island Boardwalk, $12,000, and downtown Brooklyn, $50,000. In Queens the distribution was: $25,000 for improvements in Flushing; $23,000 for a feeder and distribution cable for Flushing, Astoria and Elmhurst; $25,000 for improvements for Woodhaven and Richmond Hill, and $27,000 for Metropolitan Avenue and Forest Hills.

Brother of Chief Roger Boyle Dead—John F. Boyle, treasurer of the Democratic State Committee of New Jersey and brother of Chief Roger Boyle of Jersey City, died in Jersey City following a heart attack. He was largest individual property owner in that city, and the owner of Boyle's Thirty Acres on which was staged the Dempsey-Carpentier fight.

Those Present at the New England Fire Chiefs' Convention at Rutland, Vermont

MAINE

*Bowker, Chas. W., South Paris
*Barter, Miles F., Booth Bay Harbor
*Doyle, Irving T. Brewer
*Fortin, Chas. E. Lewiston
*Hogan, Walter E., Orono
*Hurd, G. Walter, Oldtown
*Hutchinson, Edward J., Booth Bay Harbor
*Lovejoy, Grover D., Waterville
*Mason, W. S., Bangor
*McKay, H. L., Presque Isle
*Mercier, Solomon A., Rumford
*Sanborn, Oliver T., Portland
Shaw, Daniel T., Portland
Small, Roy K., Ex-Chief, Augusta
Spaulding, Howard C., Augusta
*Turner, Harry M., Springvale

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Crowley, Roger, Manchester
Austin, C. H., Fire Com'r., Nashua
*French, Chas. H., Manchester
*Green, William C., Concord
*Lewin, Chas. H., Hanover
*Lewis, Geo. E., Newport
*Riley, E. B., Keene
*Monahan, H. J., Berlin
Robinson, George E., Concord
*Sargent, Fred M., Sunapee
*Smith, James E., Nashua

VERMONT

*Burt, Earl C., Enosburg Falls
Burt, George C., Burlington
*Collin, Henry A., Proctor
Duso, Carmi J., Enosburg Falls
Cowles, H. R., Lyndonville
Dunn, James C., Ex-Chief, Rutland
Ferguson, F. Howard, Bennington
*Heney, John C., Barre
*Humphrey, E. F., Newport
*Hutchinson, Fred A., White River Junction
*Keery, Thos. D., St. Albans
*Koltonski, Alfred H., Rutland
Mitiguy, Robert F., Bethel
Moore, Edwin D., Bennington
McCuin, C. J., Johnson
*Persons, Vancy P., Montpelier
Preble, A. G., Fire Marshall, Montpelier
*Shepard, Harley, Bethel
*Smalley, D. B., Johnson
*Montgomery, C. L., West Rutland
*Stockwell, Carl, Burlington
*Read, Myron S., Woodstock
Whalen, Richart T., Burlington

MASSACHUSETTS

Abbott, William F., Boston
Alger, Fred B., Middleboro
*Allen, Franklin B., Marion
*Allen, Selden R., Brookline
Austin, George W., Boston
*Bacon, J. Ralph, Weymouth
*Baggs, M. C., Belchertown
Barker, John J., Boston
*Bartlett, Ernest N., Billerica
Belknap, Harry, Boston
*Belmore, Arthur, Webster
Bills, Louis W., Supt. F. A., Lexington
Blanchard, Arthur H., Cambridge
Bowen, George H., Boston
Boyce, Frank A., Attleboro
Breslin, Chas J., Watertown
Breslin, James E., Jr., Watertown
Brooks, E. W., Boston
Caldwell, John S., Boston
Carlow, Harry, Taunton
Carr, Peter E., Fire Com'r., Lawrence
Carroll, William J., Boston
*Casey, James M., Cambridge
*Casey, John L., Abington
Charnock, P. C., Boston
*Clark, Fred A., Attleboro
Codman, Russel, Jr., Boston
Cowles, A. Lee, Boston
*Cribby, Jos. A., Somerville
*Daggett, W. H., Springfield
*Dahill, E. F., New Bedford
*Daoust, Samuel, Marlboro
*DeCourcey, D. H., Winchester
Deibel, Andrew F., Boston
De Veer, Harold W., Boston
*Deslauriers, Theodore, Ware
*Dickinson, Frank F., Brockton
*Doran, Andrew T., Turners Falls
Dyer, S. B., Ex-Chief, Whitman
Edmands, J. Wiley, Newton
Edwards, Fred A., Melrose
Ellis, N. S., Medford
*Endicott, Chas. K., Canton
Estabrook, Willard W., Fire Com'r., Brookline
Fales, Howard A., West Medway
Folsom, Eugene B., Salisbury
*Fox, Henry A., Boston
Gately, John J., Watertown
Gillis, Augustus C., Arlington
Geyer, John, Chelsea
Glynn, Theodore A., Ex-Fire Com'r., Boston
Grant, F. M., Newton
Gorham, Jos. T., Boston
*Hall, Frank P., Athol
*Hannigan, John J., Norwood
Hartson, William A., Orange
*Hawkins, William H., Haverhill
Harrigan, Henry J., Dedham
*Hill, William H., Belmont
*Hiser, Chas., Adams
*Holmes, J. Harry, Milton
*Hurley, Patrick J., Holyoke
*Hyatt, Henry J., Fitchburg
Hyland, D., Ware
*Johnson, George L., Waltham
Johnson, Robert H., Ex-Chief, Holden
Ickrath, W. M., Boston
*Jones, Elam B., West Springfield
*Joy, Mellen R., Saugus
Keene, John H., Allston
*Kelley, Jos. E., Danvers
King, Albert E., Ex-Chief, Mansfield
Kinsella, Alfred, Boston
Kleinfelder, Henry C., Boston
*Knowles, C. H., Hamilton
*Lane, Chas E., Orange
Lewin, William H., Worcester
Lovell, Harry J., Boston
*Lucier, John L., Northampton
*Mahoney, Thos. H., Westfield
*Mahoney, W. C., Peabody
Many, Robert, Boston
Mason, William K., Boston
Maxim, C. W., Ex-Chief, Middleboro
*McCarthy, Chas. L., Worcester
McCarthy, Justin A., Boston
McCorkle, W. J., Boston
McLean, Walter E., Allston
McLaughlin, J. A., Boston
*McNamara, Thos. F., Wellesley Hills
*McPhee, Michael, Lawrence
Metcalfe, Herbert L., Jr., Franklin
*Mitchell, Melvin P., Hudson
Moloy, James E., Woburn
*Montmeny, Arthur, Chicopee
Morris, F. J., Ex-Chief, Lawrence
Moulton, E. G., Worcester
*Murray, John O., Monson
*Neary, John H., Natick
*Nelson, George L., Groveland
Newhall, Terry A., Lynn
*O'Hearn, John W., Watertown
Parker, P. H., Hildreth, Belmont
*Partenheimer, Phillip, Greenfield
*Peterson, Leon A., Whitman
Pierce, Walter, Ex-Chief, Arlington
Pratt, Herbert K., Bridgewater
Price, Alexander, Jr., Ex-Chief, Fairhaven
*Quinlan, T. Robert, Needham
*Randlett, Clarence W., Newton
Rausch, George H., Boston
Rich, S. M., Ex-Chief, Somerville
Robinson, George E., Boston
Rustic, J. B., Boston
*Saulnier, John E., North Adams
Scully, John J., Boston
Sennott, Daniel F., Ex-Chief, Boston
Shaw, M. A., Middleboro
*Shepard, W. C., Pittsfield
*Slaman, Thos. H., Wellesley
Smith, Roland L., Cambridge
*Spooner, Edward G., Jr., Fairhaven
*Sprague, Myron E., Leicester
Steere, Burton, Springfield
*Stevens, J. Russell, Salisbury
*Stone, E. V., Ludlow
*Sullivan, James C., Lowell
Sullivan, John E., Ex-Chief, Plymouth
Taft, Frank, Boston
*Tappen, Robert M., Gardiner
*Taylor, Edward W., Lexington
*Tierney, Daniel B., Arlington
Tiffany, F. M., Ex-Chief, Boston
Tighe, William A., Boston
Toone, G. Gilbert, Boston
Tourtellotte, Frederick F., Springfield
*Tracey, Frank E., Woburn
Tracey, Hubert W., Boston
*Treen, Arthur L., West Medway
Tuckerman, Chas. D., Boston
Walker, H. S., Boston
Walsh, Peter E., Supt. Protective Dept., Boston, Mass.
*Warnock, James, Swampscott
Webber, Jos. A., Boston
Wedger, Walter L., Belmont
Williams, E. W., Lynn
Williamson, Edward E., Boston
Woodcock, Chester C., Rochdale

RHODE ISLAND

*Almond, Thos., Central Falls
Armstrong, Cassius, Westerly
*Batchelder, Earl H., Centerdale
*Chevaldier, Albric, Arctic
*Cote, A. J., Woonsocket
*Egger, George, Westerley
Fogarty, Michael, North Providence
*Gardiner, Warren B., Saylesville
Hall, Willard B., Ex-Chief, Fruit Hill
*Keiley, Patrick J., Apponaug
Hammond, Albert C., Providence
*Lawton, Jos. S., Newport
McKenzie, George A., Westerley
*Nichols, Daniel A., Barrington
Patt, Irving F., Ex-Chief, Central Falls
Patton, John M., Westerley
Rhodes, John E., Saylesville
*Rhodes, Elisha H., Lincoln
*Savage, John A., Valley Falls
Smith, George W., Ex-Chief, Wakefield
Wallace, George M., North Providence
Weekes, Reuben, Ex-Chief Providence,
*Whipple, Nathan W., Jr., Valley Falls
*Young, Daniel F., Cranston

CONNECTICUT

*Brown, Ellsworth F., Ridgefield
Brown, Russell G., East Hartford
*Burns, Thos. F., Bridgeport
Bussmann, Herman, Fire Com'r., New Haven
Clark, W. F., Ex-Chief, Naugatuck
David, Fred M., Ex-Chief, Groton
*Donnelly, T. H., West Hartford
*Dunnigan, F. P., Westport
*Foley, Arthur J., Portland
*Foy, Albert B., South Manchester
*Gisborne, F. R., Sound Beach
Glenn, Russell A., Bridgeport
Gunn, William, Jr., New London
*Hanmer, Henry F., Wethersfield
*Hayes, John H., Bristol
*Heitman, Henry H., Waterbury
Hoadley, G. W., Ex-Chief, Naugatuck
Johnson, Daniel E., Ex-Chief, Bridgeport
*Judson, Allen D., Stratford
Labensky, Irving F., New London
*Lamphere, L. L., Naugatuck
*Lawton, M. W., Middletown
*Main, Chas. D., Stonington
*Meunier, Frank, East Hartford
*Milne, George B., Rockville
*Moran, John C., Hartford
*Noble, William J., New Britain
Norton, Clarence E., Guilford
*Pachl, John S., New Haven
Potter, Stuart M., Sound Beach
*Prior, E. P., Plainville
*Reif, Lawrence E., New Haven
*Reynolds, Chas. A., Willimantic
Rose, Chas H., Ex-Chief, New London
Russell, William G., Waterbury
Sanger, John J., Sound Beach
Serafin, William T., New London
*Sherwood, William D., Southport
*Shipman, Thos. H., New London
*Stowe, Lewis F., Milford
*Taft, Henry R., Norwich
*Thurston, Ralph E., Putnam
*Veit, Victor H., Stamford
Warren, Ira A., Danielson
*White, Frank M., Guilford
*White, Herbert P., Groton
*Woodward, A. P., Danielson

MEMBERS REGISTERED FROM OUTSIDE OF NEW ENGLAND

Barnett, S. G., Wood Ridge, N. J.
Barry, William A., New York City
Benson, Fred E., New York City
Burton, Thos. M., Utica, N. Y.
Dougherty, Thos. F., Ass't Chief F. D. N. Y., New York City
Dwyer, John T., New York City
Fenner, D. C., New York City
Eberle, H. E., New York City
Perry, Cyrus W., New York City
Fox, Chas. H., Cincinnati, Ohio
Schellin, John C., Wooster, Ohio

* Designates Chief of Fire Department.

Canaan, Conn., to Buy Pumper—A 500-gallon pumper has been purchased by the fire district of Canaan, Conn.

Ardsley, N. Y., Has New Pumper—A party was held by the Elmsford Company, Ardsley, N. Y., to celebrate the arrival of the ladder truck costing $14,000.

Dayton, Ohio, Orders Five New Pieces—Dayton, Ohio, has placed an order with the Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company for five pieces of apparatus—three 1,000-gallon pumpers, one aerial ladder truck and one city service truck. The entire order amounted to $64,750.

Chief Dickinson of Brockton Long in Service—Chief F. F. Dickinson, of Brockton, Mass., celebrated the thirty-ninth anniversary of his appointment to the regular fire department. He had served a year as call man before being appointed to the regular force on June 17, 1891. He was named chief in 1928, after the death by drowning of the late William F. Daley.

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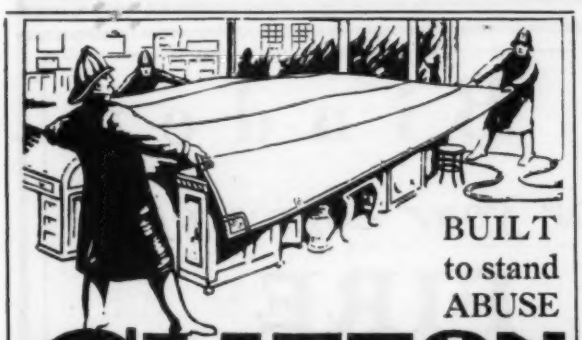

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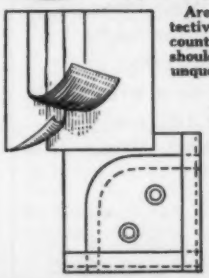

The National Board of Fire Underwriters has approved Rubber Covers in preference to all others, because—

They are thoroughly waterproof, durable, and so constructed as to withstand the hardest usage. Do not grow "tacky" in hot weather or stiff in cold weather.

We suggest that you check your equipment and see that your department has the best covers available. Send for descriptive circular.

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When a Button Protects Lives—!

Rouse every man when fire attacks, with the mighty roar of the Fedelcode Siren.

Fire works fast—firemen must hear the warning signal clearly—recognize its call instantly—speed their help to save property and LIVES!

The telephone office may have one of these Fedelcode Siren Buttons, the Fire Station, Schoolhouse, or several may be located on street corners in neat Fire Alarm Boxes. Send for recommendations for your city.

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FIRE STATION DOOR OPENERS

Over 1,300 sets of Anderson-Hale Fire Station Door Openers are in successful use. They provide simple, durable, quick-acting doors that open inward. No obstruction to sidewalk. Attractive in appearance, cannot sag, closes tight, excludes cold, gives clear opening.
Opens from driver's seat or from floor. Many repeat orders from users.

Write for complete information.

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Mfrs. Motor Fire Equipment and Fire Supplies
Kansas City, Kansas

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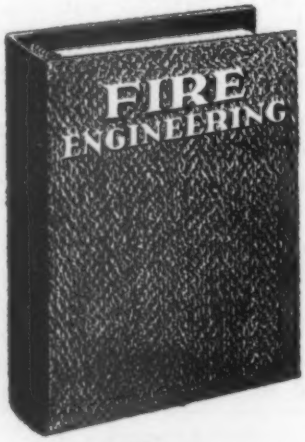

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The Round Table

(*Continued from page* 574)

pant. These figures are then sent to headquarters on blanks issued for same, and in case of any doubt are checked with figures secured from the insurance companies. As fire losses given by newspapers are sometimes exaggerated, we do not wish to employ them.

F. M. Kuhn, Chief, Pontiac, Mich.: The assistant chief in charge estimates all fire losses up to $200, judging same by experience gained through checkups with insurance companies and contractors. All fire losses over $200 are checked with insurance companies and the contractor who repairs the damaged property. Content losses are checked with the owners.

Wm. Zeigler, Chief, Hackensack, N. J.: I make an approximate estimate of damages to buildings and after the loss is adjusted check up with the contractor. On stock, I wait until I get the figures from the insurance adjuster.

Geo. M. Bower, Chief, Rome, N. Y.: In regards to establishing fire damage loss figures, I wait until the General Adjustment Bureau reports their checkup, or if settled by a local insurance agent, get the information from this source.

Edw. B. Larkin, Chief, Bradford, Pa.: We use the insurance adjuster's report to obtain our fire loss figures. Figures on cost of repair of damaged property I usually estimate myself.

As chief of the Bradford department I report all fires to the state authorities. Insurance companies also report fire losses to the state and this is the only check that I know of at the present.

E. A. McGranahan, Chief, Wheeling, W. Va.: Fire damage losses are estimated by an adjuster. For all damages over $50 a report must be sent to the state fire marshal covering same.

Reports on fire damages are made by fire inspector after he has received figures from the adjuster.

When the adjuster has completed his figures, the inspector then makes out his report and submits same to the office of the state fire marshal, a copy of which is kept on file at headquarters. A report of the adjuster is also on file at this same office.

P. J. Hurley, Chief, Holyoke, Mass.: We do not give any estimate on fire losses. We accept the figures as given by the adjuster of the insurance company. We, therefore, have no checkup on fire loss figures.

T. O. Flowers, Chief, Rock Hill, S. Car.: I estimate all fire loss figures and report same.

I check my estimate figures against the actual amount paid by the insurance companies, if involved property is insured. Having been in the service for twenty-seven years I have had considerable experience along this line.

C. Ed Willert, Chief, Mt. Clements, Mich.: I use the figures of the contractor or insurance adjuster for my fire loss data, and report all such losses myself. At present there is no check on the figures so submitted.

D. E. Mahan, Chief, S. Amboy, N. J.: An inspector goes over all property damaged by fire so that a proper estimate on the damage done may be made.

Fire losses are reported by chief of department, there is no check on the figures submitted.

V. B. Persons, Chief, Montpelier, Vt.: Fire loss figures are estimated by our adjuster, or else I get the figures from state authorities.

Reports on fire damages are made by the insurance company insuring such property.

State authorities make out an itemized sheet each year giving the loss of each fire which is a check against our figures.

L. F. Mitchell, Chief, Danville, Va.: The adjuster's report is used for fire damage figures, the chief of department making all reports on same. No check on the above is made.

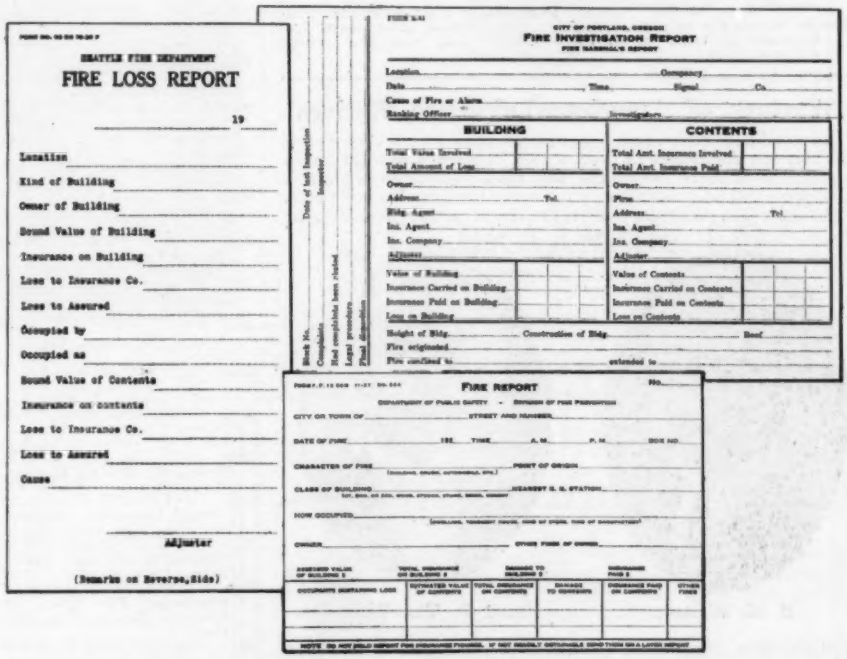
Elmer Keith, Chief, Corsicana, Tex.: I estimate all fire losses, judging same by type and manner of construction. Insurance settlements on previous fires have also been of some assistance in arriving at fire loss figures.

All fires are reported by the state fire marshal.

Answer to Previous Question

Edward Hinkley, Chief, Snohomish, Wash.: My department put over a plan for purchasing a community fire truck which was very successful and I am very happy to say that the new truck has been in service a year and has more than paid for itself from both the rural and city standpoint.

This truck, a 500-gallon pumper, is equipped with two 70-gallon booster tanks, dual tread tires, hydraulic brakes, pump cans, buckets and other necessary equipment. The rural population paid $3,500 as their share, and the city of Snohomish $3,100. The truck is housed and maintained by the city and is used in answering all rural calls within a radius of two to five miles of the city limits.



SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE LOSS REPORT

_____ 19 ____

Location _____

Kind of Building _____

Owner of Building _____

Sound Value of Building _____

Insurance on Building _____

Loss to Insurance Co. _____

Loss to Assured _____

Occupied by _____

Occupied as _____

Sound Value of Contents _____

Insurance on contents _____

Loss to Insurance Co. _____

Loss to Assured _____

Cause _____

_____

Adjuster

(Remarks on Reverse Side)

CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Location _____ Occupancy _____

Date _____ Time _____ Signal _____ Co.

Cause of Fire or Alarm _____

Ranking Officer _____ Investigators _____

BUILDING		CONTENTS	
Total Value Involved		Total Amt. Insurance Involved	
Total Amount of Loss		Total Amt. Insurance Paid	
Owner		Owner	
Address	Tel.	Firm	
Bldg. Agent		Address	Tel.
Ins. Agent		Ins. Agent	
Ins. Company		Ins. Company	
Adjuster		Adjuster	
Value of Building		Value of Contents	
Insurance Carried on Building		Insurance Carried on Contents	
Insurance Paid on Building		Insurance Paid on Contents	
Loss on Building		Loss on Contents	

Date of last Inspection
Inspector
Block No.
Complaint
Had complaints been visited
Legal procedure
Final disposition

Height of Bldg. _____ Construction of Bldg. _____ Roof _____

Fire originated _____

Fire confined to _____ extended to _____

FIRE REPORT

No. _____

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

CITY OR TOWN OF _____ STREET AND NUMBER _____

DATE OF FIRE _____ 19__ TIME _____ A. M. _____ P. M. BOX NO. _____

CHARACTER OF FIRE _____ POINT OF ORIGIN _____

CLASS OF BUILDING _____ NEAREST U. S. STATION _____

HOW OCCUPIED _____

OWNER _____ OTHER FIRMS OF OWNER _____

ASSESSED VALUE OF BUILDING $	TOTAL INSURANCE ON BUILDING $	DAMAGE TO BUILDING $	INSURANCE PAID $

OCCUPANTS' SUFFERING LOSS	ESTIMATED VALUE OF CONTENTS	TOTAL INSURANCE ON CONTENTS	DAMAGE TO CONTENTS	INSURANCE PAID ON CONTENTS	OTHER FIRMS

NOTE—Do not build report for insurance purposes. If not readily obtainable send them on a later report

A Few Samples of Fire Loss Records

At the left is the form used by the Seattle Fire Department; right, type used in Portland, Ore., and lower, sample of form used in Watertown, Mass.

The only difficulty in putting over this plan was to sell the idea at first to the most responsible citizens and property owners of the territory to be served. Committees were then appointed from the chosen leaders who went out and sold the idea to their neighbors and made the collections.

I would be glad to answer questions or furnish a description of our plan to any department interested in rural fire protection.

A. V. Rothwell, Apparatus Engineer, Peoria, Ill.: I believe that I am a pioneer in the installation of community fire apparatus and have placed trucks in central and northern Illinois—about sixty units. In every case I have handled the campaign with a crew of five men and raised the money, even up to $7,000 in rural communities. In some instances one-half of the amount has been paid by the town because of a joint ownership.

The installations have been made in towns as small as two hundred and as large as 12,000 persons. From what I hear, all the apparatus have been self-supporting by reason of a charge made to non-subscribers.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Oroville, Calif.—Request of Fire Protective Committee of Butte County for purchase of a fire truck for use in county was taken under advisement by board of supervisors.

Morton, Wash.—City Council planning the organization of a volunteer fire department.

Lindsay, Calif.—Reports state a bond issue is being considered for purchase of a pumper for the fire department.

Pauls Valley, Okla.—City to vote July 29 on issuance of $22,000 in bonds to purchase piece of fire apparatus and other equipment.

Birdsboro, Penn.—Funds are being raised by Friendship Fire Company for purchase of a pumper, according to reports.

Hughesville, Penn. — Independent Hose Co., No. 1, raising funds for purchase of new pumper, according to reports.

Clarion, Iowa—The purchase of fire apparatus is being urged, according to reports.

Hallowell, Maine.—Fire department raising funds for purchase of motorized hook and ladder truck. George Densmore, Chief.

Taunton, Mass. — Reports state movement has been started relative to purchasing another pumper for the fire department.

Glens Falls, N. Y.—Board of Public Safety discussed need of new fire station to replace the Ridge Street station, at recent meeting, according to reports.

East Hartford, Conn. — Reports state Council voted to instruct finance board to include in the budget of the fire board sufficient money to purchase a new 1,000 gal. pumper.

Placentia, Calif. — Reports state council may consider $10,000 bond issue for erection of combined city hall and fire station.

Middletown, Conn.—Reports state the purchase of an aerial ladder truck may be recommended.

Watters, of American-LaFrance, Retires

Frank M. Watters has resigned his position as Vice-President of the American-LaFrance and Foamite Corporation, in charge of general sales. He has been associated with this company and its predecessors for more than twenty-six years. Although Mr. Watters will retire from active business, he

F. M. Watters

Frank R. Van Rensselaer

will continue to serve as a member of the board of directors of this corporation.

Frank R. Van Rensselaer has been appointed to succeed Mr. Watters as Vice-President in charge of general sales. He has been with the corporation for a long time and served as head of San Francisco branch, Export Manager, Assistant to the Vice-President and Treasurer, and later as Secretary to the Corporation.

Chief Scott Urges Support of Bill

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Representative Reed of New York that will be of great benefit to the various fire schools and colleges throughout the country. The bill is No. 10821 and is designed to provide for an appropriation of $1,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, and a sum for each year thereafter for three years which will be $1,000,000 in excess of the year preceding. This money is to be allotted to the States and Territories for the payment of salaries of educators in vocational educational work.

Chief Ralph J. Scott, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, has returned from a meeting held in Arizona, where he met with the State Vocational Education representatives from eleven western states and presented the I. A. F. C. plan of fire department educational work. He received a hearty response and promises of cooperation.

Chief Scott believes that this measure will be of inestimable value to the various fire departments. He urges every fire chief to make contact with his congressional representative in reference to support of this bill.

CONVENTION DATES

July 7-10—MICHIGAN STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 56th Annual Convention and Fire College, South Haven, Mich. Secretary-Treasurer, H. L. Williams, Ludington, Mich.

July 9-10—DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 10th Annual Convention, Georgetown, Sussex County, Del. Secretary, Sam H. Carson, Dover, Del.

July 14-15—MONTANA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 39th Annual Convention, Missoula, Mont. Secretary-Treasurer, D. E. Moser, Bozeman, Mont.

July 16—NASSAU COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 25th Annual Parade and Tournament, Inwood, L. I., N. Y. Parade, 9:30 A. M.; Tournament, 1:30 p. m. Secretary, J. W. Sane, Glen Cove, L. I.; Chairman Tournament, Henry W. Buck, Westbury, L. I.

July 22-23—WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 30th Annual Convention, Rochester, N. Y. Secretary, Henry A. Clark, Batavia, N. Y.

July 29-31—INDIANA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 13th Annual Convention, Lafayette, Ind. Secretary, Clem Smith, Fire Headquarters, Terre Haute, Ind.

July 30-31—CENTRAL NEW YORK FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 37th Annual Convention, Skaneateles, N. Y. President, C. W. McCray, Waverly, N. Y.; Secretary, T. J. Murray, Cortland, N. Y.

July 31-Aug. 1-2—CALIFORNIA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 8th Annual Convention, San Francisco, Cal. Secretary-Treasurer, H. E. Strasser, 1171 Tenth Street, San Diego, Cal.

August—MAINE STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 3rd Annual Convention, Bangor, Me. (Date to be set later.) Secretary, Earl E. Pratt, Auburn, Me.

August—UTAH STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 23rd Annual Convention, Provo City, Utah. (Exact date to be decided later.) Secretary, Charles A. Canning, Midvale, Utah.

Aug. 6-7—CUMBERLAND VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 30th Annual Convention, Shippensburg, Pa. Secretary, C. L. Jacobs, Waynesboro, Pa.

Aug. 6-8—WASHINGTON STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 8th Annual Convention, Kelso, Wash. Secretary, H. S. Jenkins, Bellingham, Wash.

Aug. 12-14—WISCONSIN PAID FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 23rd Annual Convention, Two Rivers, Wis. Secretary-Treasurer, William H. Schultz, Sheboygan, Wis.

Aug. 12-15—WYOMING STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 4th Annual Convention and Tournament, Caspar, Wyo. Secretary, Chief Justin H. Patrick, Laramie, Wyo.

Aug. 15-16—CONNECTICUT STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 47th Annual Convention, Pyramid Lodge, 1035 State St., Bridgeport, Conn. Secretary, D. W. Harford, 10 Chestnut St., South Norwalk, Conn.

Aug. 19-22—FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. 58th Annual Convention, Nyack, N. Y. Secretary, Fred A. Davis, Drawer X, Fort Edward, N. Y.

Aug. 25-27—ARKANSAS STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 9th Annual Convention, McGhee, Ark., Secretary, H. D. Compton, Central Fire Station, Little Rock, Ark.

Aug. 27-29—VIRGINIA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 44th Annual Convention, Phoebus, Va. Secretary, E. K. Landis, Pulaski, Va.

Sept. 1-4—PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 37th Annual Convention, Oakland, Cal. Secretary, Jay W. Stevens, 1014 Merchants' Exchange Building, San Francisco, Cal.

Sept. 2-4—KENTUCKY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 11th Annual Convention, Paducah, Ky. Secretary, Capt. S. G. Render, 940 Starks Bldg., Louisville, Ky.

Sept. 2-5—DOMINION ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 22nd Annual Convention, Port Arthur, Ont. Secretary, Chief James Armstrong, Kingston, Ontario, Can. Exhibit Space, Chief A. S. Kapelle, Stratford, Ont.

Sept. 9-11—ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 43rd Annual Convention, Peoria, Ill. Secretary, Assistant Chief Roy W. Alsip, Fire Department, Champaign, Ill. Exhibits, Chief Albert Herring, Fire Department, Murphysboro, Ill.

Sept. 9-12—INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 58th Annual Convention, Hotel Royal Alexandra, Winnipeg, Man., Canada. Recording Secretary, Chief James J. Mulcahy, Yonkers, N. Y.; Executive Secretary, Jay W. Stevens, 1014 Merchants' Exchange Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.; Chairman, Exhibit Committee. Chief Charles Alt, Fire Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo. Hotel Reservations, Chief D. A. Boulden, Winnipeg, Man.

Sept. 16-17—IOWA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 53rd Annual Convention, Boone, Ia. Secretary, Paul Soener, Independence, Ia.

Sept. 16-18—MASSACHUSETTS STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 51st Annual Convention, Pittsfield, Mass. Secretary, Daniel J. Looney, Room 1043, Old South Bldg., Boston, Mass.

Sept. 24-25—MISSOURI STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Trenton, Mo. Secretary-Treasurer, M. J. Mulvoy, 3500 S. Grand Boulevard, St. Louis.

Oct. 7-9—FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. 51st Annual Convention, Hotel Americus, Allentown, Pa. Secretary, Charles E. Clark, 411 Bellevue Avenue, Wayne, Pa.

Oct. 8-9—WISCONSIN STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION. 2nd Annual Convention, Sheboygan, Wis. Secretary, Chief Arthur J. Rahn, Fire Department, Two Rivers, Mich.

Oct. 15—FIRE CHIEFS' EMERGENCY PLAN OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY. Regular meeting, and Mayors' Night. Fire Headquarters, Mt. Kisco, N. Y. Secretary-Treasurer, E. Riviere, Fire Headquarters, Larchmont, N. Y.

Oct. 21-23—NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 49th Annual Convention (2d in year), Scottsbluff, Neb. Secretary-Treasurer, H. A. Webbert, Kearney, Neb.

Oct. 21-23—RAILWAY FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION. 17th Annual Convention, St. Louis, Mo., Secretary-Treasurer, R. R. Hackett, Baltimore & Ohio R. R., Baltimore, Md.

November—SONOMA COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Petaluma, Cal.

HEADQUARTERS FIRE DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF
CHIEF ENGINEER
CHARLES H. FULLER, Chief Engineer.
Pawtucket, R. I. October 31 1929

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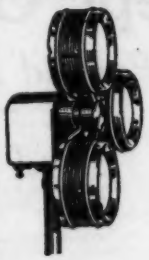

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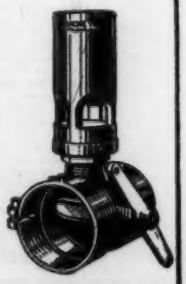

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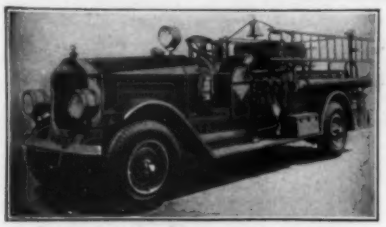

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Name..... Rank.....
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The Fireman's Liability

(*Continued from page* 568)

flicting bodily injuries upon plaintiff. In addition thereto plaintiff alleged:

"(a) That the fire truck was at the time of the collision operated by the duly authorized agents of the city at a high and dangerous rate of speed. (b) That the fire to which the firefighting apparatus was taken at the time mentioned was located at or near the building designated at 425 East First Street, far out of the congested district of the city; that the fire truck could have been taken to the scene of the fire easily by avoiding such congested district. That the locality of the fire did not constitute a grave fire hazard and the danger from the fire did not justify excessive speed. (c) That the said fire truck was driven along Center Street and that portion thereof which at the time of the accident was the most congested part of the city. That by taking this street the distance to the fire was greater than if less congested streets had been taken, and Center Street was taken merely for show and display, as well known to the managing authorities of the city. (d) That the city had immediately prior to the collision sprinkled the streets, rendering the street wet and slippery a few blocks each way from the scene of the collision. That said dangerous and slippery condition could have been seen by the agents of the city operating the fire apparatus in ample time to avoid it. (e) The driver of the fire truck was incompetent, incapable and inexperienced. That he was at the time suffering from eye trouble and was under the care of an eye specialist, all of which facts were well known to the city. (f) That the city failed and neglected to enforce its thirty minute parking ordinance, thereby leaving plaintiff without parking space, and that had such ordinance been enforced plaintiff could have escaped injury. (g) That the driver of the fire truck lost control thereof; that said driver could have seen plaintiff for a distance of 900 feet and could have avoided the accident by slacking his speed and gaining control of said truck. (i) That the fire alarm owned and operated by said city was defective, so that it could not be heard in the congested portion of said city, all to the knowledge of said city."

The Supreme Court Decision

To the amended petition containing these allegations the defendants demurred, and the demummer was sustained on the grounds that the facts alleged were insufficient as a cause of action, the plaintiff refusing to plead further, judgment of the lower court was rendered for defendants, and plaintiff appealed to the Supreme Court. In rendering its opinion our Supreme Court, speaking through Justice Blume, said:

"We pointed out in the case of Ramirez vs. City of Cheyenne 241 Pac. 710, that it is held almost without dissent that the maintenance of a fire department is a governmental function. And the decisions are nearly unanimous to the effect that, in the absence of statutory provisions to the contrary, a municipality is exempt from liability for injuries to persons or property resulting from malfeasance or nonfeasance in the maintenance and operation of a fire department by such municipality. . . . We do not believe that we are warranted in departing in this case from the principle that a municipality is exempt from liability in its operation of a governmental function, and in deciding, contrary to the overwhelming weight of authority, that a municipality is liable for negligence in the operation of its fire department, unless there are special facts in the case by which we would be justified to take it out of the general rule. In note 9 A. L. R. 150 and 151, illustrations are given as to when a municipality is exempt from liability for acts in connection with the operation of such department. Instances of that kind are as follows: For negligent driving of a fire apparatus in going to a fire; for carelessness of a fireman in drawing a hose cart against a person on a public street while answering an alarm of fire; for negligent driving in going from a fire back to a fire house for more hose to use in fighting a fire; for reckless driving of a fire apparatus, negligently running down a pedestrian on the street. It is clear that at least most of the acts of negligence alleged in the case at bar come within the principle of these cases. To drive a fire apparatus to a fire negligently or recklessly, and without control of the apparatus, and on the wrong side of the street, or in a street which is crowded where it was unnecessary to drive, and to have a fire alarm system which was defective, are clearly acts of negligence in the operation of the fire department of the city for which under the rule of the cases mentioned the city is not liable. And that is no less true where the city hires or retains an incompetent servant in connection with that department, though the incompetency of the servant is known."

On the point of the city of Casper failing to enforce its parking ordinance, thereby depriving plaintiff of parking space, the court said:

"It is the general rule that, except in cases perhaps where a nuisance is created, which is not true in this case, a municipality is not liable for nonenforcement of its ordinances."

On the point of sprinkling the street, the court said:

"Nor can the city be held liable because it sprinkled the street over which the fire apparatus was negligently driven."

Whether Fire Itself Constitutes a Hazard

On the point as to whether or not the fire to which the fire apparatus was being driven constituted a grave fire hazard, the danger of which did or did not justify excessive speed, the court said:

"It is the theory of counsel for the plaintiff that there must have been an actual existing emergency, as proven by the facts which would justify excessive speed, in order to exempt a municipality from liability for damages caused thereby. . . . This theory is based upon the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Law of this state. Now the general rule is that where, as here, a municipality exercises governmental functions in operating fire apparatus, and a statute is passed for the purpose of regulating the speed of vehicles generally, it will not be assumed that the regulation was intended to apply to the operation of such fire apparatus unless such intention is couched in express terms, or is manifested by necessary or unavoidable implication. . . . We find no mention express or implied in our motor vehicle law of any fire apparatus except in Section 3487 W. C. S. 1920 in force at the time of the accident in the case at bar. . . ."

Having quoted this section of the statute which is quite lengthy, the court said:

"We think that the exemption mentioned in the statute above quote contemplates that an actually existing fire in the city is an emergency which justifies excessive speed, and that the men operating the fire department may construe it to be such. . . . We cannot believe that the legislature intended that the character and extent of the fire must, in order to justify excessive speed, be determined beforehand —and that at the peril of the city.

II—Personal Liability of Firemen

We now pass to a discussion of the personal liability of firemen when answering a call.

I have already quoted from Eugene McQuillin's work on the Law of Municipal Corporations, wherein he states that the members of the fire department of a municipality when acting in the discharge of their duties, act rather as officers of the municipality, charged with the performance of certain public duties or services. I have called your attention to the early ruling of the Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts in the case of Hafford vs. the City of New Bedford, wherein this ruling was first laid down. I have followed the law on down through the highest courts of the land, all holding generally to this principle. But before passing this point finally I wish to make it clear that there is a distinction between a fireman acting rather as an officer in the discharge of his duties, and a public officer in the strict sense of the term. In Volume 22 Ruling Case Law, Section 36, at page 397 occurs the following statement:

"Policemen, firemen and watchmen are not usually considered as being public officers in the strict sense, but as subordinate ministerial agents or employees. Accordingly it has been held that a fireman, employed as such by a city, with no control over the fire department, nor any of its property, except to use it in the extinguishment of fires, and who is subject at all times to the direction and control of the Chief of the Fire Department, and is subject to discharge at any time by the city council, is an employee and not a public officer."

This authority is speaking on the subject of Public Officers, their powers, duties, liabilities, etc., in the strict sense. The court ruling referred to is that of State vs. Jennings, reported in Volume 49 North Eastern Reporter at page 404. In that case the Attorney General had instituted quo warranto proceedings for the removal of a city fireman and induct others into office, quo warranto proceedings being the legal remedy whereby the right to hold office is questioned. In this case the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio held that this kind of proceeding was not applicable in the case of a city fireman, who was not an officer in the strict sense of the term; that firemen were hired and discharged by the city council, and not subject to removal by quo warranto proceedings. I simply call attention to this point in passing so that we may fully understand the law applicable to our question; it is sufficient to say that for the purpose of discussion of the question at hand that city firemen in the discharge of their duties act as officers, and their liabilities are measured by this standard. In addition thereto, the Chief of the Fire Departments of municipalities of this State are officers by virtue of statute.

Qualification of Official Duties

Official duties are of two classes: (1) Ministerial or mandatory (2) Discretionary or judicial. Corpus Juris, Volume 43 at Page 713 says:

"The former are such as a person performs in a given state of facts, in a prescribed manner, in obedience to the mandate of legal authority, without regard to or the exercise of his own judgment upon the propriety of the act being done; the latter such as necessarily require the exercise of reason in the adaptation of means to an end, and discretion in determining how or whether the act should be done or the course pursued."

In the discharge of discretionary duties, officers are not liable for injuries to third persons caused thereby unless

they act corruptly, or exceed their authority, or acted wilfully or maliciously with the express purpose of inflicting injury upon another.

Volume 43 Corpus Juris, at Page 715, says on this point:

"Municipal officers like other officers are immune from liability for the injurious effects of the discharge of their discretionary duties, unless they act corruptly or exceed their authority, or unless it is shown that they acted wilfully or maliciously with the express purpose of inflicting injury upon the plaintiff."

Ruling Case Law, Volume 22 at page 485, lays down the rule as follows:

"Where an officer is invested with discretion, and is empowered to exercise his judgment in matters brought before him, he is sometimes called a quasi judicial officer, and when so acting he is usually given immunity from liability to persons who may be injured as the result of an erroneous decision, provided the acts complained of are done within the scope of the officer's authority, and without wilfulness, malice or corruption."

I would say that many of the duties of the Chief of the Fire Department are discretionary, among which may be mentioned destruction of property to prevent the spread of fire; the means used of reaching and extinguishing a fire; the crossing of property or the occupancy and use thereof in extinguishing fires, and that in the exercise of discretion in such events he is immune from liability to persons injured thereby, unless he act wilfully, maliciously, or corruptly in the matter. However, there may be some merit in the question which has been raised that such acts is the taking or damaging of private property for public use without just compensation, in violation of the constitution, and that the municipality should pay therefor, although the majority ruling holds the contrary.

Nearly all the acts of firemen as such and as distinguished from the acts of the Chief of the Fire Department are ministerial within the definition of the term before stated. In the honest performance of these acts in the discharge of his duties the fireman is not responsible to others or liable to private action in damages. In the negligent performance of such duties the fireman is liable to respond in damages to private persons injured thereby.

Corpus Juris, vol. 43 at page 714, lays down the rule thusly:

"Municipal officers are not in general liable for acts done in the ordinary exercise of their corporate powers."

Ruling Case Law, vol. 22 at page 478, states the rule thusly:

"Public officers are not as a rule personally liable for acts performed by them in the line of their duty."

Mr. McQuillin in his work on Municipal Corporations, vol. 6, page 399, states the rule in these words:

"The general rule is that a municipality officer is not liable to private action for his acts done in the honest performance of his corporate duties."

Where the officer performs his duties in a negligent manner, thereby causing injury to others the rule is different. In Volume 22 Ruling Case Law at page 484 this rule is stated as follows:

"Public officers as a rule are answerable to private persons for injuries resulting from the negligent performance of their ministerial duties."

In Volume 43 Corpus Juris, Page 714, it is stated as follows:

"They (referring to municipal officers) are, however, subject to the general law of liability to the person injured by nonfeasance or misfeasance of a ministerial duty."

Mr. McQuillin says (vol. 6, page 399):

"In certain cases as where he exceeds his authority and the like members of the police and fire department are personally liable."

The personal liability of a fireman for his own negligent acts has never to my knowledge been decided by the Supreme Court of this State. In the case of White vs. City of Casper, before discussed, members of the fire department were joined with the city as defendants, but upon the failure of the plaintiff's attorney to brief the law applicable thereto, the Supreme Court, under Rule Fourteen of that court, which provides that the court may refuse to consider a point not mentioned in the brief, acted accordingly and failed to consider it.

Well Established Principles of Law on Subject

In conclusion I would lay down the following as well established principles of law on this subject:

1. A municipality is not liable for the negligent acts of its officers, agents and employees in the performance of a governmental function.
2. The maintenance and operation of a fire department by a municipality is a governmental function.
3. That municipal firemen in the discharge of their duties act rather as officers and not as servants or mere employees.
4. That in the discharge of discretionary duties firemen are not personally liable to others injured by their acts unless they act corruptly, or exceed their authority.
5. That in the discharge of their ministerial duties firemen are personally liable to private persons for injuries resulting from the negligent performance of such duties.

(Excepts from a paper read before the State Fire College at Caspar, Wyoming.)

Nyack Arranges Convention Details

Under the leadership of Hon. Arthur S. Tompkins, past president and Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and trustee of the New York State Firemen's Association, Nyack, N. Y., is making plans for the forty-eighth annual convention of the State Firemen's association.

Capt. Wm. Paul Babcock

A special committee has been provided to look after the comfort and the entertainment of the ladies.

Special plans have been made for the parade to minimize on the hills and turns. Complete arrangements are not definite for few returns have been received concerning the participating companies. It is feared that the crowd of marchers will be greater than local restaurants will be able to handle, and arrangements have been made with the ladies societies of the several churches to serve regular dinners at more or less all hours of the day. Hotel accommodations are also limited, and early reservations are urged.

The Tarrytown-Nyack and Irvington-Piermont ferry companies have granted free transportation to all fire apparatus and it is expected that the Bear Mountain Bridge Company will do the same.

Ample parking space has been provided, special space for those intending to remain during the full convention. On the day of the parade, no parking will be permitted on the streets after 11 A.M. All money collected from parking fees will be used to defray convention expenses.

Convention headquarters will be held in the St. George Hotel, near the Tarrytown ferry. The Executive Committee will meet in the Y. M. C. A., and the reservations committee will also have offices there. The convention meetings will be held in the Fox Broadway Theatre.

The delegates' banquet will be held at the Clarkstown Country Club. Following this there will be sports and entertainment held on the club lawn. Many prizes have been provided.

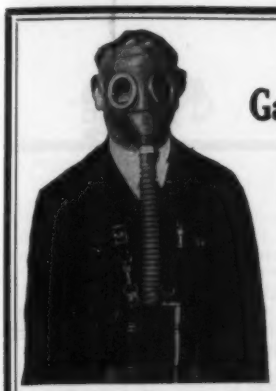
Nyack may be reached by several railroad systems and by bus from Suffern, New York City or West Nyack.

Stutz, Apparatus Builder, Dead

Harry C. Stutz, designer and builder of pleasure and racing automobiles and fire apparatus, died at the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind., to which he had been taken suffering from appendicitis. He was fifty-three years old. Mr. Stutz had just driven to Indianapolis from Orlando, Fla., when he was stricken.

He was born in Ansonia, Ohio, September 12, 1876. As the operator of a small machine shop he became interested in automobiles and in 1897 turned from manufacturing farm pumping engines to building autos. He designed the American underslung automobile and was with the Marion Auto Company and then with the Marmon. He later sold his Stutz interests to Charles M. Schwab.

West Bend, Wis., Celebrates 60th Anniversary—A formal celebration was planned to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the fire department of West Bend, Wis.



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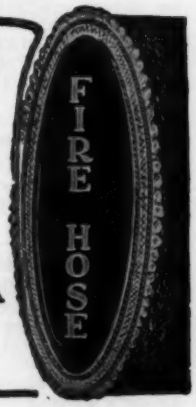

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An artist can take a 50-cent piece of canvas and paint a picture on it worth hundreds of dollars. That's art.

A merchant can take an article costing 75 cents and sell it for $1. That's business.

You, probably, could write a check for $9,000, but it wouldn't be worth a cent. That's tough.

It's strange that a motorist never remembers he used to be a pedestrian.

AND OTHERS TOO

A fire department lieutenant who had taken the promotional examinations for the third time without making the list, bemoaned his luck to the company members.

"Oh, why was I ever brought up to be a fireman?"

And a fireman who was out of sight, shouted, "You weren't."

MISDIRECTED

It was his own fault. The boys at the house told him not to marry the girl, but then love is not only blind but on some it acts as an anasthesia. Shortly after the domestic union took place, the chief character of this story approached the license bureau again:

"Are you sure that you gave me a marriage license last month?"

"Of course, what's the matter with it?" asked the clerk.

"Well, I thought that there must be some mistake, as I have been leading a dog's life ever since."

Now that we have the talking pictures when you hear "No, you mustn't do that," you can't tell if it's part of the show or merely the couple behind you.

IN GOOD STANDING

Firemen of a volunteer department are not merely accepted and trained, they must first be voted on, elected and then initiated. If they live, they are firemen. And so as one young man, remarked painfully as he sat down:

"Oh, my initiation!"

TOO EXPERT

A civilian member of the department was called for jury duty, and in common with others, presented himself so that he could be excused.

"Your honor, I beg to be excused. I owe a man $10 and as he is leaving for a long trip abroad I want to catch him before he gets on the train and pay him the $10. It may be my last chance."

"You are excused," said His Honor without even pausing to think. "I don't want anybody on the jury who can lie like that."

Prohibitionists need feel no fear of a return of the corner saloon. The corners are all taken up with filling stations.

EVEN IN HIS SLEEP

A fire buff was asked by an intimate friend:

"Do you ever have any trouble getting to sleep after a hard day's work.

"Not at all," was the answer. "I just try to count the number that would gather if there was ever a fire at the Y. W. C. A."

And in buying one of those second hand cars, always remember it can't be as bad as it usually is painted.

DIRECTION FINDER

One evening fire started in a hotel room from a guest who was smoking in bed. The first company to arrive placed a ladder in position even though it did not reach the proper floor. Then the firemen entered the hotel and rode up on the elevators to the floor in question. A reporter who was very much interested in the proceedings, asked a fireman about the incident.

"Oh, that ladder," replied the fireman, "is seldom used. It is just put there so that the next company and the firemen will know where the fire is."

The girl who falls in love with movie stars is to us almost as hopeless as the cow that falls in love with a Bull Durham advertisement.

VALUELESS

A manufacturer had sent a representative to give a talk at the county convention. The talk was one prepared by the home office and read at other gatherings.

A late comer joined the group that was discussing the day's program. He interrupted by asking:

"What do they call that paper by Dick Jones?"

To this a dissatisfied member replied, "Wrapping paper, I'd call it."

Laundries are great labor-savers. When you get your things back, you don't have so many buttons to fasten.

QUALIFIED

It is too warm to think of the winter and masquerade parties, but here is a story that is too good to table.

It was the custom for this volunteer department to give an annual masquerade to raise operating expenses. The ball was considerable of a social event, and was being discussed by some members in the station.

A fat, jolly individual asked, "What would you suggest as a costume for me?"

"I'd say go as the Siamese twins. There's certainly enough of you."

BETTER DONE

In some volunteer departments, because of the social contacts established on the outside, there is often lack of respect for the officers.

On the second floor of the station, in the pool room, a group were discussing fire department administration.

"I never send a subordinate off on a fool's errand," said an officer.

To this a quick wit replied, "No, it's much better to go yourself."

Drawing by "Art" Espey

Even Firemen Have the Privilege of Changing Their Minds

Officially the fire department was declared out of business because individual members believed the treatment accorded them by the Council was not just and proper. But the men quickly changed their attitude when it was learned that the home of a member was on fire. Although the chief declared the fire house closed and that no more alarms would be answered from it, the notice was disregarded, and true to their calling, the volunteer firemen hauled out the engine that was listed for sale.

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37 Extinguishers, Carbon Tetrachloride.
38 Extinguishers, Foam.
39 Extinguishers, Powder.
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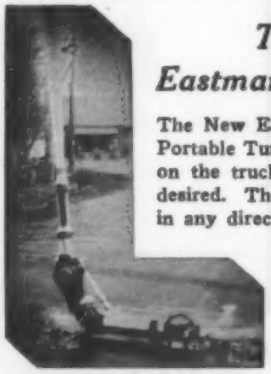
7-9



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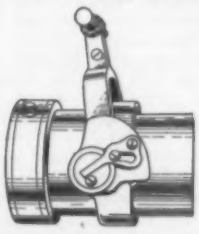

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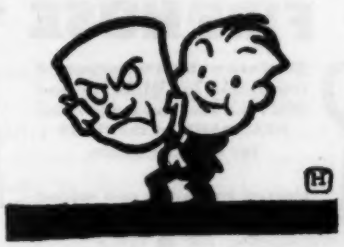

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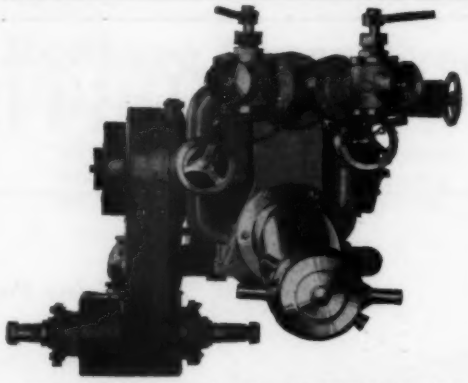

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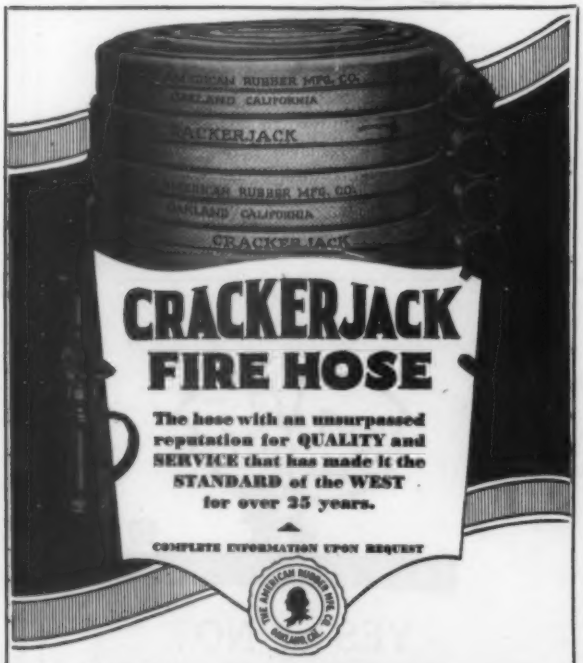

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